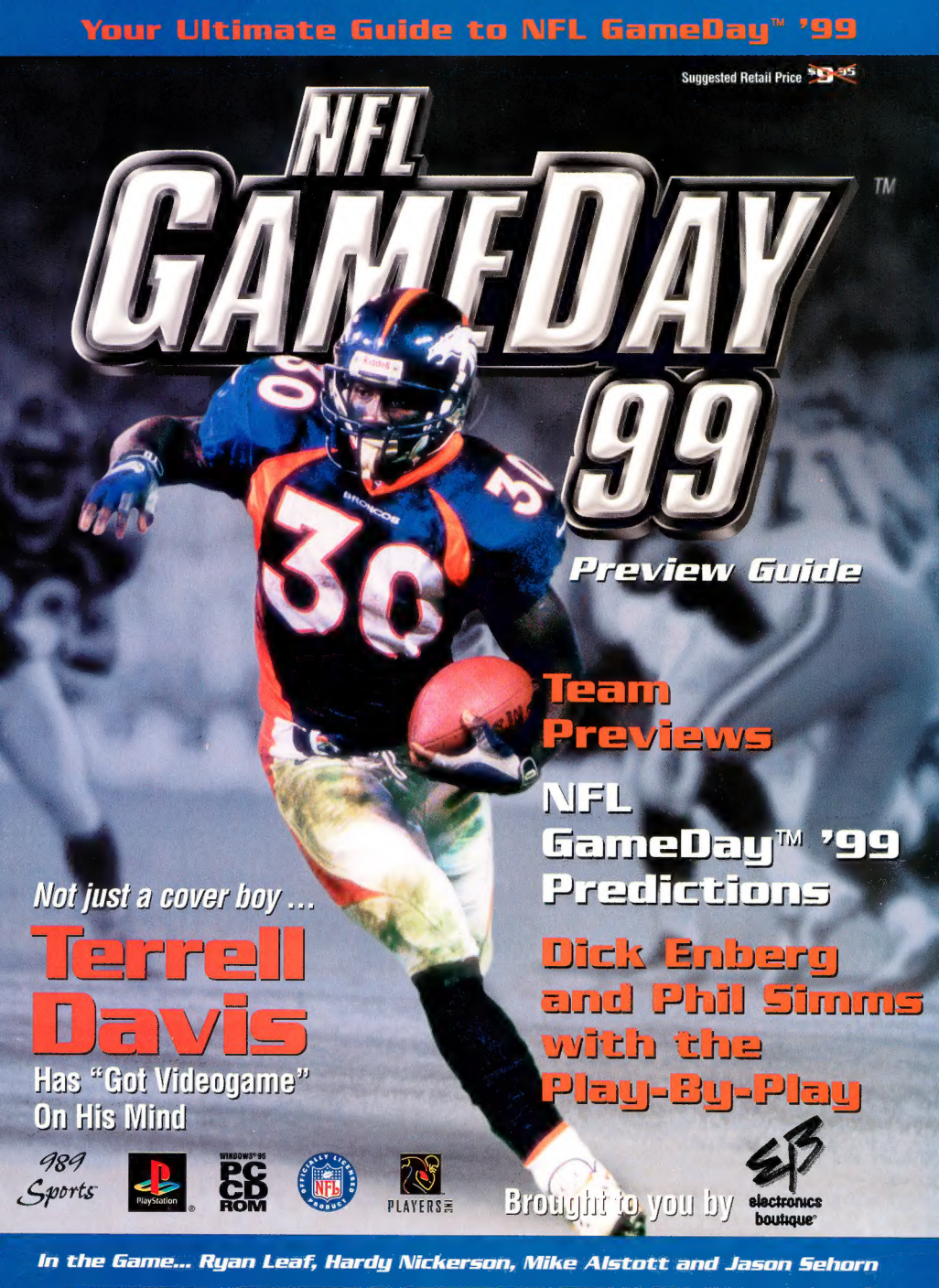
Your Ultimate Guide to NFL GameDay™ '99

Suggested Retail Price $9.95

NFL GameDay™ 99

Preview Guide



Team Previews

NFL GameDay™ '99 Predictions

Dick Enberg and Phil Simms with the Play-By-Play

Not just a cover boy ...

Terrell Davis

Has "Got Videogame" On His Mind

989 Sports

PlayStation

WINDOWS® 95 PC CD ROM

OFFICIALLY LICENSED NFL PRODUCT

PLAYERS INC

Brought to you by EB electronics boutique®

In the Game... Ryan Leaf, Hardy Nickerson, Mike Alstott and Jason Sehorn

100% PURE
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10 OZ.
GRADE A

NFL XTREME.™ A HIGH-SCORING, 5-ON-5, IN-YOUR-FACE, GRIDIRON WAR. THERE'S NO RULES, NO PENALTIES AND NO BOUNDARIES. IT'S A HELMET-POPPING, TRASH-TALKING, LATE-HITTING FREE-FOR-ALL. ENJOY.

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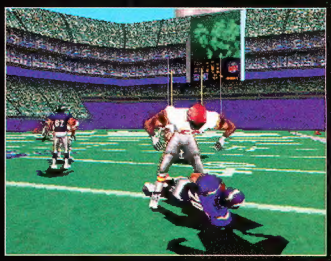

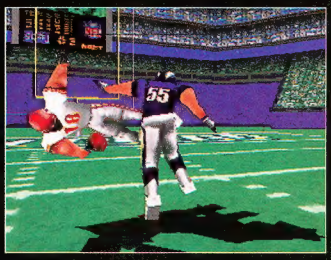

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Printed in Canada

Terrell Davis running in for a touchdown against the Green Bay Packers

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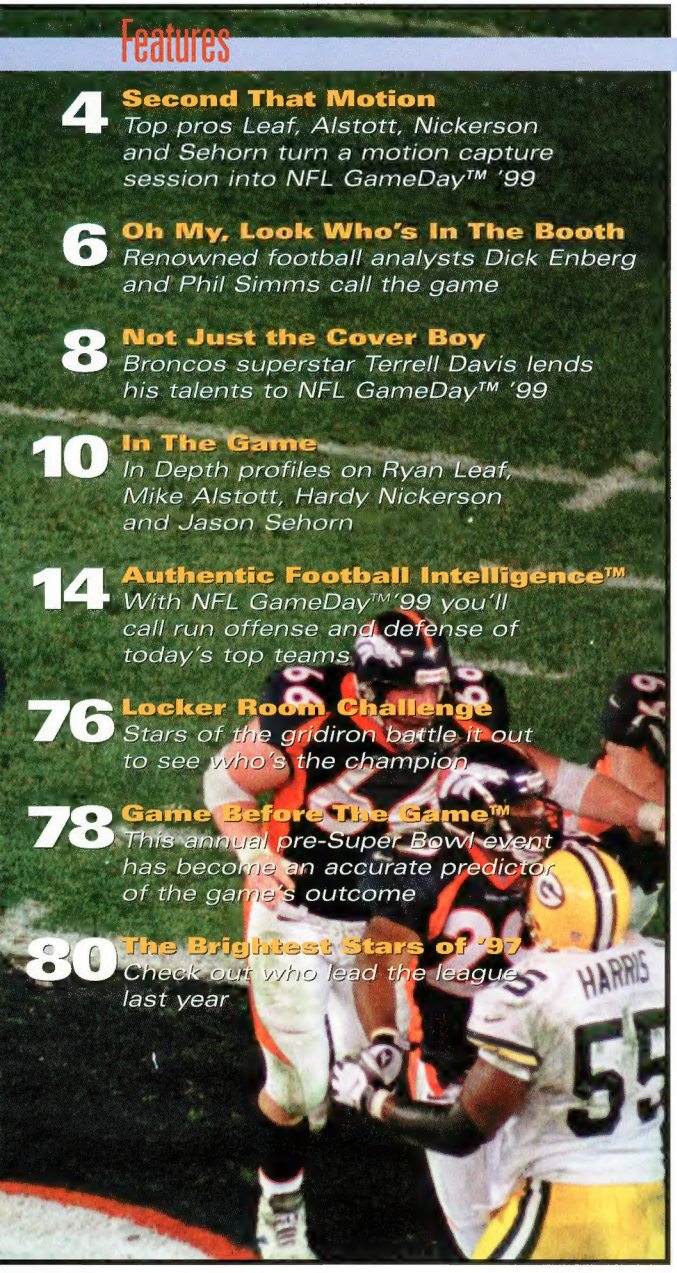

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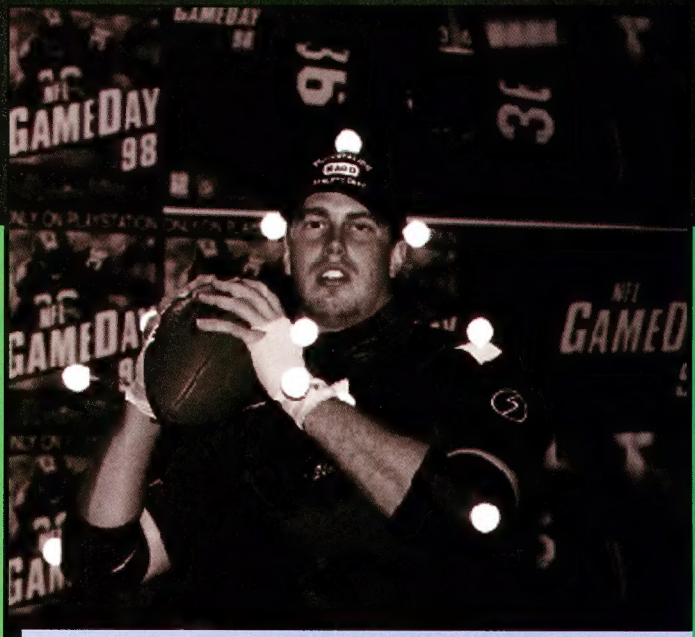
989 Sports

NFL GAMEDAY 99™

"NFL GameDay™ '99 puts you on the field with a new motion capture session from today's top NFL stars"

SECOND

All-New Motion Captures Featured in NFL GameDay™ '99



Top gun, Ryan Leaf drops back to pass during the motion capture session

Motion capture delivers unmatched realism

THAT MOTION

Mike Alstott takes the handoff

Hardy Nickerson leads the defense

989 SPORTS, not one to scrimp on encores, is taking Motion Capture technology to new heights in *NFL GameDay™ '99*. Last year's version of the game made use of some big NFL names—Pittsburgh Steelers Pro Bowl running back Jerome Bettis, Raiders receiver Tim Brown, Indianapolis Colts running back Lamont Warren, Seattle Seahawks linebacker Chad Brown and tight end Christian Fauria—and *NFL GameDay™ '99* is going even bigger. Included in the 989 Sports' Motion Capture session: Pro Bowl fullback Mike Alstott of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; his teammate, linebacker Hardy Nickerson; New York Giants cornerback Jason Sehorn and rookie quarterback Ryan Leaf of the San Diego Chargers.

The complex process of Motion Capture begins in 989 Studio's San Diego sports videogame development facility. The player straps reflective balls to his feet, knees, hips, arms and head, then proceeds to run through a series of moves appropriate to his position. (A few examples: Alstott bruises through a tackler; Nickerson makes reads and shouts directions at the line of scrimmage; Sehorn waits in a crouch; Leaf throws the ball off the run.)

Eight high-speed digital cameras capture the moves, which are used by the animator in order to build a framework, or skeleton, of the athlete's body. Then, the *NFL GameDay™ '99* 3-D player model can be built around that framework. Complete with an authentic NFL uniform, each motion captured player model is ready to stiff-arm, bowl over, juke and perform a myriad of ultra-realistic football moves.

989 Sports™

NFL GAMEDAY 99

Oh My!

Look Who's in the Booth

Dick Enberg & Phil Simms

team up for NFL GameDay™ '99

NFL GameDay™ '99 sounds as good as it looks

Announcer, Dick Enberg

Announcer, Phil Simms

Teaming up for the play-by-play

Dick Enberg, in-studio, with *NFL GameDay™ '99* producers

REALISM. That's the response that would come from the 989 Sports team if asked what the top goal was in producing *NFL GameDay™ '99*. And it's there. From the Motion Capture-enhanced player movements, the 3-D graphics and the authentic playbooks, that goal is met and exceeded, and has been, year after year.

But brace yourself—there's something new. *NFL GameDay™ '99* offers another bit of aesthetic realism that'll make your ears perk up: the voices of legendary announcer Dick Enberg and former Super Bowl XXII MVP and quarterback, Phil Simms.

989 Sports realized one more way to make *NFL GameDay™ '99* the most authentic game available would be by incorporating the most recognizable football voice to ever enter the booth. Enberg, who was with NBC Sports for more than 24 years, has a list of awards and credentials a mile long: a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, eight Emmy Awards, eight Sportscaster of the Year Awards, seven Super Bowls, nine Rose Bowls, five NCAA basketball finals, 18 Wimbledons and one World Series. For sports fans of every age, Enberg's voice is sports.

Phil Simms, a relative neophyte in the announcing world, made his mark on the gridiron. His 15-year career was highlighted by a Super Bowl XXI (1986 season) blowout victory over the Denver Broncos in a game that Simms completed an incredible 22-of-25 passes and was named game MVP. The former Morehead State star, who completed his pro career in 1993, owns 19 New York Giants team records and finished 11th in NFL history in total passing yards (33,462) and 16th in TD tosses (199).

With the famous "Oh my!" cry of Enberg and the expert commentary of Simms, *NFL GameDay™ '99* is as realistic in the booth as it is on the field.

NFL GAMEDAY 99

TERRELL DAVIS

Has 'Got Videogame' On His Mind

Number 30 for the Broncos has quickly become one of the most prolific players in the NFL. His running style combined power and speed, puts fear in the eyes of opposing defenders whenever he comes their way.

Davis led the AFC in rushing in '97

WHAT company wouldn't want the Super Bowl XXXII MVP to grace the cover of its flagship sports product? Yet, the impetus behind 989 Sports' decision to have Terrell Davis on the cover of the all-new *NFL GameDay™ '99*, wasn't just because of what he does on the field. Of course 4,405 career yards rushing was alluring, but in actuality, the deciding factor for 989 Sports was the fact that Davis is truly an NFL GameDay videogamer — and a darn good one at that.

Davis first met the 989 Sports NFL GameDay development team during a sneak preview demonstration of *NFL GameDay™ '98* at the Denver Broncos training camp. According to 989 Sports, it was during that visit that Davis confessed to being a huge NFL GameDay fanatic. And, Davis' claim wasn't just typical jock talk.

Davis backed his boasting when he beat Green Bay Packers wide receiver Robert Brooks, 20-0 in the 3rd Annual "Game Before the Game™," an NFL GameDay videogame tournament that served as an interactive preview of Super Bowl XXXII.

"It's fun to see yourself in the videogame," Davis said, when asked why the NFL GameDay series is so popular among professional football players. "It's always been my dream. And now, they (the *NFL GameDay™ '99* football players) have names, likeness, everything."

Davis isn't just a cover boy for *NFL GameDay™ '99*, he consulted on the game and added plays to the playbook.

Cover boy. Consultant. NFL GameDay videogame champion. Super Bowl MVP. Yes, Davis' got a lot on his mind.

Davis has become Elway's go to guy

The power of Davis demands the respect of all defenders

1997 SEASON-RUSHING AND RECEIVING

G	GS	Rush Att.	Rush Yds.	Rush Avg.	Long	TD	Rec.	Rec. Yds.	Rec. Avg.	Long	TD
15	15	369	1750	4.7	50t	15	42	287	6.8	25	0

CAREER TOTALS

G	GS	Rush Att.	Rush Yds.	Rush Avg.	Long	TD	Rec.	Rec. Yds.	Rec. Avg.	Long	TD
45	45	951	4405	4.6	71t	35	127	964	7.8	31	3

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS (Pro Career)

Davis holds many honors after only three NFL seasons. He claimed the AFC rushing title twice ('96 & '97). His list of honors include Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Year, Sports Illustrated and UPI NFL Player of the Year, two Pro-Bowl selections, All-Pro selections from the Associated Press, Sports Illustrated, The Sporting News, USA Today, Pro Football Weekly, Football Digest, and College and Pro Football Newsweekly.

1997 – Davis scaled new heights by earning the MVP in Super Bowl XXXII overcoming severe migraine headaches to lead the Broncos to a much deserved title. Davis ties Super Bowl records for total touchdowns (3) and points scored (18). Davis set an NFL record for combined rushing yards (2,231) and attempts (481) in a single season (regular and post season). Davis won the AFC season rushing title with an impressive, Bronco franchise setting mark of 1,750 yards on 369 carries. Davis also set franchise single season records for touchdowns (15) and led the NFL in first downs (110).

Here is the complete story on Terrell Davis. You'll agree, he is more than just our cover boy!!!

989 Sports

NFL GAMEDAY 99

Ryan Leaf, Mike Alstott, Hardy Nickerson and Jason Sehorn lend their talents to develop the action in this year's game

IN THE GAME

YOU

Leaf's arm led the Cougars to a Rose Bowl showdown with the Wolverines in the '97 / '98 season

Barely in the Chargers fold, Leaf has been in demand by the media

RYAN LEAF

Ryan Leaf's talented arm will be expected to lead the Chargers in the '98 season

The solid play of Mike Alstott and Hardy Nickerson led the Bucs to their first playoff appearance since 1983

MIKE ALSTOTT

HARDY NICKERSON

That last Pro Bowl selection came on the heels of another vintage Nickerson season, in which he recorded a team-high 194 tackles, including 108 solos.

JASON SEHORN

CB, NEW YORK GIANTS
HEIGHT: 6-2 – WEIGHT: 210

The New York Giants' rise to first place in the NFC East (with a 10-5-1 record) may land Jason Sehorn his first Super Bowl appearance. You can bet the five-year veteran will play a big role in that enviable goal.

Sehorn is an unlikely NFL star, after playing just two years of college ball at the University of Southern California. Sehorn played safety and cornerback, picking off seven enemy passes in his senior year, and was noticed by the pros as a second round NFL draft pick (59th overall). He continued his versatility in the Giants secondary in his rookie season, playing in eight games at both the corner and safety.

His playing time increased the following year as Sehorn took part in 14 contests and contributed six defensive tackles, while adding eight special teams tackles to his credit.

His breakthrough-season came two years ago, when Sehorn moved into a starting corner position and led the Giants team with five interceptions, including one for a touchdown. He added 97 tackles, including 83 solos, and three sacks. He continued to help special teams with nine tackles.

Last year, he continued to improve, finishing the season with six interceptions, one for a touchdown.

Four Pros lend their expertise to *NFL GameDay™ '99*

Alstott teamed with Warrick Dunn to provide a powerful backfield for Tampa Bay

Once again, Nickerson anchored the Bucs linebacking corps

Sehorn's speed and agility helped propel the Giants' into a defensive force in the NFC

Jason Sehorn's cat-like reflexes led to six interceptions last year

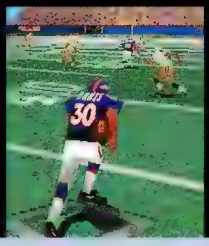
1997 Sports

NFL GAMEDAY 99

AUTHENTIC FOOTBALL

The Videogame with a High IQ

NFL GameDay™ '99 Is Smarter Than The Rest, With An All-New Authentic Football Intelligence™



NFL GameDay™ '99 delivers real plays designed by the pros

The Videogame with a high IQ

INTELLIGENCE™

Quite [illegible] zone coverages.

NFL GameDay [illegible]

NFL GameDay™ '99's AFI™ executes the offensive and defensive schemes employed by today's top teams

AFC EAST

Buffalo bills

THE Marv Levy era, which included four consecutive trips to the Super Bowl, is over after the venerable coach announced his retirement last year. That glorious career in Buffalo came on the heels of Jim Kelly bowing out before the 1997 season began. Another piece of the past fell off when special teams stalwart Steve Tasker retired.

"This is a tough challenge," admits new head coach Wade Phillips, who guided Buffalo's effective defense the past three years and realizes that the job of guiding the Bills back to the promised land will not be an easy one. "People remember this team for reaching four Super Bowls, but this is a team that went 6-10 last year and tailed off at the end of the year. We have a big job to do."

The Bills finished off the season by losing their last three games and six of the last seven. As difficult as the task at hand may seem, Buffalo does have some holdovers from the glory years. Thurman Thomas gives the Bills experience and versatility in the backfield and a nice veteran complement for second-year player Antowain Smith, who rushed for eight touchdowns last year.

As it was during the early 1990s, Andre Reed continues to lead the receiving corps after recording 60 receptions in 1997 to join Jerry Rice of the San Francisco 49ers as the only receivers in NFL history to record 11 seasons of 50 or more catches.

Defensive star Bruce Smith is one of the marquee Bills after his 14 sacks in '97 led the team. He became the first player in NFL history to record 10 or more sacks in 11 different seasons and only the second player to register 150 career sacks.

Smith spearheaded a strong defense, but the Bills' offensive woes were too much in 1997. Looking to replace Kelly, the Bills turned to Todd Collins, Alex Van Pelt and Billy Joe Hobert, who combined to throw 14 touchdowns, while giving up 25 interceptions. Now, Rob Johnson, acquired in the off-season from the Jacksonville Jaguars, is the man on the spot. Buffalo also signed one-time NFL quarterback and 1984 Heisman Trophy winner Doug Flutie, from Boston College and the Hail Mary fame.

Antowain Smith

NFL Ranking: Offense 25, Defense 9

'97 Results

AUG. 31	MINNESOTA 34	BUFFALO 13
SEP. 7	**BUFFALO 28**	**N.Y. JETS 22**
SEP. 14	KANSAS CITY 22	BUFFALO 16
SEP. 21	**BUFFALO 37**	**INDIANAPOLIS 35**
SEP. 28	Bye	
OCT. 5	**BUFFALO 22**	**DETROIT 13**
OCT. 12	NEW ENGLAND 33	BUFFALO 6
OCT. 20	**BUFFALO 9**	**INDIANAPOLIS 6**
OCT. 26	DENVER 23	BUFFALO 20 (OT)
NOV. 2	**BUFFALO 9**	**MIAMI 6**
NOV. 9	NEW ENGLAND 31	BUFFALO 10
NOV. 17	MIAMI 30	BUFFALO 13
NOV. 23	TENNESSEE 31	BUFFALO 14
NOV. 30	**BUFFALO 20**	**N.Y. JETS 10**
DEC. 7	CHICAGO 20	BUFFALO 3
DEC. 14	JACKSONVILLE 20	BUFFALO 14
DEC. 20	GREEN BAY 31	BUFFALO 21

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at San Diego	1:15	
SEP. 13	at Miami	1:00	
SEP. 20	**ST. LOUIS**	**1:00**	
SEP. 27	Bye		
OCT. 4	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1:00**	
OCT. 11	at Indianapolis	12:00	
OCT. 18	**JACKSONVILLE**	**1:00**	
OCT. 25	at Carolina	8:20	
NOV. 1	**MIAMI**	**1:00**	
NOV. 8	at New York Jets	4:15	
NOV. 15	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**	
NOV. 22	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**1:00**	
NOV. 29	at New England	4:05	
DEC. 6	at Cincinnati	1:00	
DEC. 13	**OAKLAND**	**1:00**	
DEC. 19	**NEW YORK JETS**	**12:35**	**Saturday**
DEC. 27	at New Orleans	12:00	

Note: All times are local

Buffalo *Bills*

AFC east

Johnson wasn't the only off-season acquisition for the offense as Sam Gash, coming off a knee injury, brings experience and blocking skills to the backfield. Another free agent acquisition, Kevin Williams, offers the Bills depth and options—along with Quinn Early and Eric Moulds—as Buffalo looks to open up its offense under Johnson.

The Bills' defense will need a typical banner season from Smith, following the free agent departures of cornerback Jeff Burris (Indianapolis Colts) and linebacker Bryce Paup (Jacksonville Jaguars).

A healthy Ted Washington would go a long way in Buffalo's 1997 campaign. A standout season at nose tackle limited the opposition in their double-teaming of Smith. Last year, he recorded a career-high four sacks, but the quarterback-chasing was a bonus. His ability to defend the run makes Washington one of the premier interior linemen in the game. That point was emphasized when the Bills re-signed him to a new five-year deal in the off-season.

In seven years in the NFL, Washington has 459 tackles and two years ago, he recorded 130, including 105 solos.

What Levy, Kelly and Tasker—not to mention some of the remaining Bills—did was establish a winning tradition in Buffalo. It's up to the current edition to maintain and possibly surpass the level of excellence set in the early 1990s.

Whether that can be accomplished remains to be seen.

The Bills are in good hands defensively and figure to be a little more explosive on offense in 1998.

Unfortunately, it's not good enough to get the Bills back into immediate Super Bowl contention. And, with teams such as the New England Patriots, Miami Dolphins and the improved New York Jets in the AFC East, it may even be a struggle to gain entry into post-season.

Bruce Smith

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Buffalo Bills 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	88 Quinn Early	LE 90 Phil Hansen	K	2 Steve Christie
	83 Andre Reed	98 Sean Moran	P	9 Chris Mohr
TE	86 Tony Cline	NT 92 Ted Washington	PR	80 Eric Moulds
	87 Robert Coons	91 Shawn Price	KOR	80 Eric Moulds
LT	70 John Fina	RE 78 Bruce Smith		
	74 Jamie Nails	75 Marcellus Wiley		
LG	79 Ruben Brown	OLB 96 Dan Brandenburg		
	76 Ethan Albright	ILB 52 John Holecek		
C	61 Dusty Zeigler	58 Marlo Perry		
	60 Jerry Ostroski	ILB 58 Marlo Perry		
RG	69 Marcus Spriggs	OLB 59 Sam Rogers		
	72 Joe Panos	99 Gabe Northern		
RT	60 Jerry Ostroski	LCB 31 Ray Jackson		
TE	84 Lonnie Johnson	RCB 28 Thomas Smith		
	85 Jay Riemersma	27 Ken Irvin		
WR	81 Kevin Williams	SS 20 Henry Jones		
QB	11 Rob Johnson	40 Eric Smedley		
	15 Todd Collins	FS 24 Kurt Schulz		
RB	34 Thurman Thomas	21 Manny Martin		
	23 Antowain Smith			
FB	44 Darick Holmes			
	33 Sam Gash			

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
2	Sam Cowart	LB	Florida State
3	Robert Hicks	OT	Mississippi State
5	Jonathan Linton	RB	North Carolina
6	Fred Coleman	WR	Washington
7	Victor Allotey	OG	Indiana
7	Kamil Loud	WR	Cal Poly SLO

989 Sports™

AFC EAST

Indianapolis Colts

THE Indianapolis Colts will have a great mix of experience and youth working for them in an effort to turn around a 3-13 season

General manager Bill Polian guided the Buffalo Bills to four consecutive Super Bowl appearances and took the Carolina Panthers to the NFC title game in only their second year of existence, but he'll have to count heavily on a rookie in order to continue such post-season success with the Colts

The Colts used the NFL's first overall pick to select quarter back Peyton Manning out of the University of Tennessee and, in the process, gave Indianapolis the injection of optimism it's been missing since its appearance in the 1995 AFC title game

Manning has the potential to be a marquee player, such as John Elway was when he spurned the then—Baltimore Colts—in the early 1980s, as the son of former New Orleans Saint, Archie Manning, he'll have all eyes on him in his rookie year, with Kelly Holcomb likely providing the backup

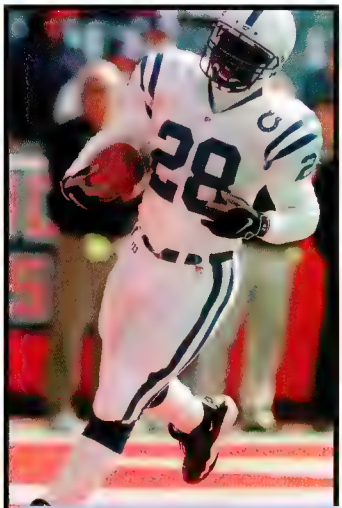
"The best advice is to just be patient when you do make a mistake," says Manning "You're going to make mistakes. It's how you respond to them that's most important. I know (the pressure) is going to be there and I accept it. All you can do is be the best you can be You can't worry about it

"I have big expectations of myself I'm not worried about numbers or stats I'm not going to do it by myself "

He'll have running back Marshall Faulk to help out after a season in which he ran for 1,054 yards and scored seven rushing touchdowns Faulk also checked in with 471 yards on 47 catches. No Colts player went over 1,000 receiving yards last year, but Marvin Harrison and Aaron Bailey are both capable of being reliable, big-play targets for Manning Harrison led the way with 73 catches for 866 yards and six touchdowns and tight end Ken Dilger is an emerging force. Bailey can also be explosive on kickoff returns

The backfield isn't the biggest problem, however, as the Colts allowed 62 sacks last year. That unit definitely has to get better, at least to keep Manning healthy

Polian kept Tony Mandarich, who was taken second overall in the 1989 draft Mandarich will move this year from tackle to guard, while Tarik Glenn moves from guard to left tackle to



Marshall Faulk

NFL Ranking: Offense 19, Defense 10

'97 Results

AUG	31	MIAMI 16	INDIANAPOLIS 10
SEP.	7	NEW ENGLAND 31	INDIANAPOLIS 6
SEP.	14	SEATTLE 31	INDIANAPOLIS 3
SEP.	21	BUFFALO 37	INDIANAPOLIS 35
SEP.	28	Bye	
OCT.	5	N.Y. JETS 16	INDIANAPOLIS 12
OCT.	12	PITTSBURGH 24	INDIANAPOLIS 22
OCT.	20	BUFFALO 9	INDIANAPOLIS 6
OCT	26	SAN DIEGO 9	INDIANAPOLIS 6
NOV.	2	TAMPA BAY 31	INDIANAPOLIS 28
NOV.	9	CINCINNATI 28	INDIANAPOLIS 13
NOV.	**16**	**INDIANAPOLIS 41**	**GREEN BAY 38**
NOV.	23	DETROIT 32	INDIANAPOLIS 10
NOV.	30	NEW ENGLAND 20	INDIANAPOLIS 17
DEC.	**7**	**INDIANAPOLIS 22**	**NEW YORK JETS 14**
DEC.	**14**	**INDIANAPOLIS 41**	**MIAMI 0**
DEC.	21	MINNESOTA 39	INDIANAPOLIS 28

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**MIAMI**	**4:15**
SEP	13	at New England	8.20
SEP	20	at New York Jets	1:00
SEP.	**27**	**NEW ORLEANS**	**1:00**
OCT.	**4**	**SAN DIEGO**	**1:00**
OCT.	**11**	**BUFFALO**	**1:00**
OCT.	18	at San Francisco	4:05
OCT.	25	Bye	
NOV.	**1**	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**
NOV.	8	at Miami	1:00
NOV.	**15**	**NEW YORK JETS**	**1:00**
NOV.	22	at Buffalo	1.00
NOV.	29	at Baltimore	1:00
DEC.	6	at Atlanta	1:00
DEC.	**13**	**CINCINNATI**	**1:00**
DEC.	20	at Seattle	4:05
DEC.	**27**	**CAROLINA**	**1:00**

Note All times are loca

Indianapolis Colts

AFC east

protect Manning's blind side. Adam Meadows, who occupied that left tackle spot, moves to the right side The Colts also brought in former Pittsburgh Steeler Tom Myslinski to provide some depth

Defensively, Polian turned to the Colts' past and his own to improve the team

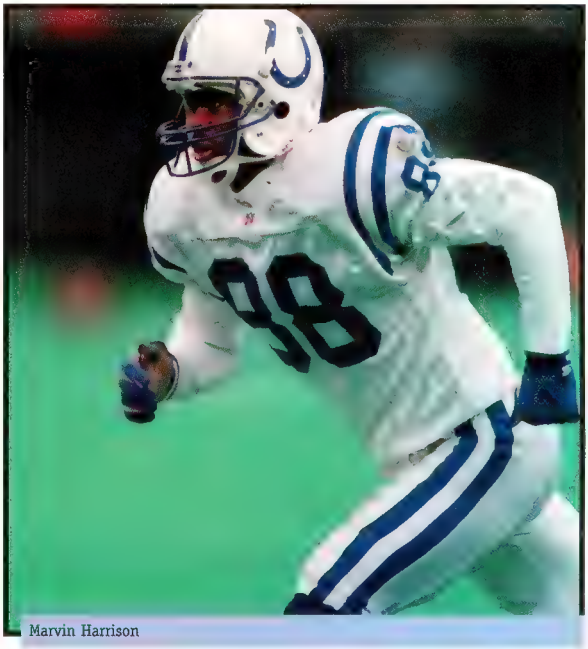
Free agent linebacker Jeff Herrod was brought back to Indianapolis after spending last season with the Philadelphia Eagles, where he played 10 games (mostly on special teams) after spending nine seasons with the Colts. "We feel (Herrod) still has some good football in him," says Polian. "He's been a bell-weather for this team for a long time and we think he still is capable of doing that."

Polian also dipped into his Buffalo past and came up with free agent cornerback Jeff Burris, who brings to the Colts stability in a secondary that used five different corners in 1997 Burris poses a double threat, excelling on punt returns, as well.

Burris is sure the Colts have turned around their fortunes "This team is destined for success and I want to be part of that I want to be part of a legacy starting and I think we have a chance for that "

The man Indianapolis is staking its future on is new head coach Jim Mora, who replaces Lindy Infante. Mora was known as a disciplinarian during his years with the New Orleans Saints, where he compiled a record of 93-74 and led the team to four playoff appearances

Whether the Colts will be able to climb the AFC East standing this year is questionable, but the schedule is one of reacquaintance in 1998 Polian faced the Bills twice as division opponents. Manning goes up against San Diego Charger quarterback Ryan Leaf—the NFL's second overall pick—and Mora faces the Saints once



Marvin Harrison

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: Indianapolis Colts 6-10
playoff bound: no

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	80 Aaron Bailey	LE	99 Al Fontenot	P	17 Chris Gardocki
	18 Nate Jacquet		98 Dan Footman		14 Cary Blanchard
LT	78 Tarik Glenn	LT	95 Bernard Whittington	K	14 Cary Blanchard
	71 Kipp Vickers		61 Tony McCoy		17 Chris Gardocki
LG	62 Tom Myslinski	RT	62 Ellis Johnson	PR	86 Brian Stablein
	71 Kipp Vickers		90 Steve Martin		18 Nate Jacquet
C	58 Jay Leeuwenburg	RE	98 Dan Footman	KOR	80 Aaron Bailey
	66 Eugene Chung		97 Kendel Shello		21 Lamont Warren
RG	79 Tony Mandarich	LLB	50 Elijah Alexander		
	66 Eugene Chung		52 Steve Morrison		
RT	73 Adam Meadows	MLB	59 Stephen Grant		
TE	85 Ken Dilger		51 Scott Von der Ahe		
	81 Marcus Pollard	RLB	55 Quentin Coryatt		
WR	88 Marvin Harrison		54 Jeff Herrod		
	83 Torrance Small	LCB	26 Carlton Gray		
QB	13 Kelly Holcomb		34 Monty Montgomery		
	18 Peyton Manning	RCB	40 Ray McElroy		
RB	28 Marshall Faulk		22 Jeff Burris		
	21 Lamont Warren	SS	25 Robert Blackmon		
RB	32 Zack Crockett		49 David Tate		
	44 Chris Hetherington	FS	29 Jason Belser		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Peyton Manning	QB	Tennessee
2	Jerome Pathon	WR	Washington
3	E.G. Green	WR	Florida State
4	Steve McKinney	OG	Texas A&M
5	Antony Jordan	LB	Vanderbilt
7	Aaron Taylor	C	Nebraska
7	Corey Gaines	DB	Tennessee

AFC EAST

Miami dolphins

JIMMY Johnson, a Dallas Cowboy legend, moved into south Florida to replace a Miami Dolphin legend and, to his credit, guided them into the playoffs in his second year on the job

"Jimmy's aware of everything that goes on in the organization," says defensive end Trace Armstrong, who feels that a hands-on approach with the two-time Super Bowl winner, will will pay future dividends in Miami—where Shula won a couple of Super Bowls himself

During those glory days, Shula operated on a run-to-throw theory, using the likes of Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick and Mercury Morris to lug the ball and, when necessary, have Bob Griese fling to the likes of Paul Warfield and Howard Twilley. It may be time to return to that era

The Dolphins have relied too heavily on the arm of future hall-of-famer Dan Marino and Johnson recognizes the need for balance Last year, Marino led all NFL quarterbacks by attempting 548 passes. With 199 first downs through the air, they only registered 87 on the ground The need for a more balanced attack was underscored in the Dolphins' 17-3 loss to the New England Patriots in last year's AFC Wild Card Game, when the Pats showed no respect for the Miami running game and took dead aim at Marino, blitzing early and often The Dolphins responded with a mere 42 yards on 17 carries, while Marino threw for only 141 yards

Despite being in contention for the top spot in the AFC East, the Dolphins staggered through the closing weeks of the season Both Miami and New England went into Week 16 with identical records, but the Dolphins missed an opportunity to move a game ahead by losing 41-0 to the weak Indianapolis Colts. Again, the Dolphins could have clinched the division title, but instead lost 14-12 to the Patriots the following week This ensured New England had the home playoff date

This year, the Dolphins aren't planning to use a feature back, but rather, substitute by need Karim Abdul Jabbar led

O.J. McDuffie

NFL Ranking: *Offense 11, Defense 26*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**MIAMI 16**	**INDIANAPOLIS 10**
SEP. 7	**MIAMI 16**	**TENNESSEE 13 (OT)**
SEP. 14	GREEN BAY 23	MIAMI 18
SEP. 21	TAMPA BAY 31	MIAMI 21
SEP. 28	Bye	
OCT. 5	**MIAMI 17**	**KANSAS CITY 14**
OCT. 12	**MIAMI 31**	**N.Y. JETS 20**
OCT. 19	**MIAMI 24**	**BALTIMORE 13**
OCT. 27	CHICAGO 36	MIAMI 33 (OT)
NOV. 2	BUFFALO 9	MIAMI 6
NOV. 9	**MIAMI 24**	**N.Y. JETS 17**
NOV. 17	**MIAMI 30**	**BUFFALO 13**
NOV. 23	NEW ENGLAND 27	MIAMI 24
NOV. 30	**MIAMI 34**	**OAKLAND 16**
DEC. 7	**MIAMI 33**	**DETROIT 30**
DEC. 14	INDIANAPOLIS 41	MIAMI 0
DEC. 22	NEW ENGLAND 14	MIAMI 12

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at Indianapolis	4:15	
SEP. 13	**BUFFALO**	**1:00**	
SEP. 20	**PITTSBURGH**	**1:00**	
SEP. 27	Bye		
OCT. 4	at New York Jets	1:00	
OCT. 12	at Jacksonville	8:20	Monday
OCT. 18	ST. LOUIS	4:15	
OCT. 25	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**	
NOV. 1	at Buffalo	1:00	
NOV. 8	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**1:00**	
NOV. 15	at Carolina	1:00	
NOV. 23	at New England	8:20	Monday
NOV. 29	**NEW ORLEANS**	**1:00**	
DEC. 6	at Oakland	4:15	
DEC. 13	**NEW YORK JETS**	**8:20**	
DEC. 21	**DENVER**	**8:20**	**Monday**
DEC. 27	at Atlanta	1:00	

Note All times are local

the team with 892 rushing yards and is a capable receiver, as well. The team's power back is the often-troubled Lawrence Phillips.

Miami also made attempts to bring in new faces, one being John Avery, the Dolphins' first draft pick from the University of Mississippi. Their other attempt at getting someone new didn't work out, as a deal with the Chicago Bears was nixed when it was discovered that Rashaan Salaam wasn't healthy.

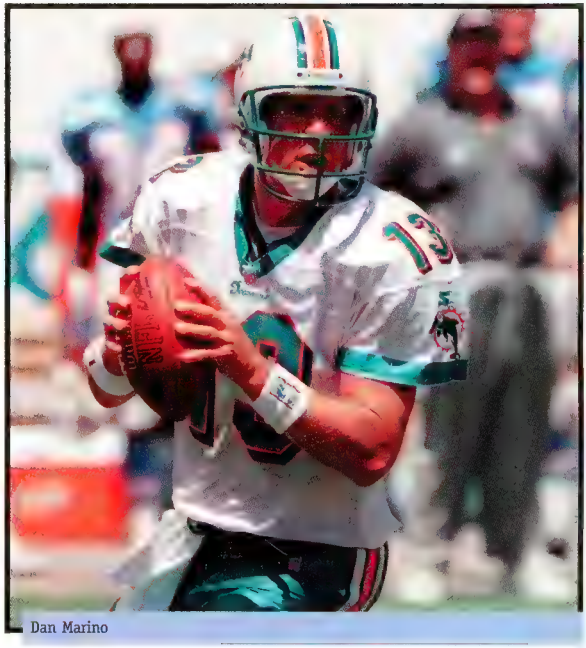
The emphasis on running will affect the offensive line, one known for its pass protection in the past. Johnson feels he now has the in-your-face type of line that he had in Dallas, with the addition of Kevin Donnalley from the Tennessee Oilers. Also in the lineup is Pro Bowl lineman Richmond Webb. James Brown has re-signed and Brent Smith, Jeff Buckey and Tim Ruddy are returning.

Marino only threw 16 touchdown passes last year and the loss of first round pick, Yatil Green to a knee injury, before the season even began didn't help.

"O.J. had a great year. You don't get any better on third down. He's a great underneath receiver," says Armstrong, who says the Miami defense also has to raise its play a notch. "We had a good defense, not a great defense. We have to generate more pressure up front."

One person who will help in that cause is Zach Thomas, who returned to form after breaking his leg in pre-season. Derrick Rodgers also showed good things in his rookie year. A new face to most, but a familiar one to Johnson, is that of safety Brock Marion, who comes on board as a free agent from the Cowboys.

Marino is still effective, but no longer can carry the Miami offense on his own. If all goes as planned, the Dolphins could soar—make that run—into contention in the AFC East.



Dan Marino

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: Miami Dolphins 9-7
playoff bound: no

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 18 Brett Perriman
85 Lamar Thomas
LT 78 Richmond Webb
74 Brent Smith
LG 77 Jeff Buckey
60 John Bock
C 61 Tim Ruddy
60 John Bock
RG 68 Mike Sheldon
77 Kevin Donnalley
RT 76 James Brown
TE 84 Troy Drayton
89 Ed Perry
WR 81 O.J. McDuffie
88 Charles Jordan
QB 13 Dan Marino
7 Craig Erickson
RB 33 Karim Abdul-Jabbar
FB 36 Stanley Pritchett

DEFENSE

LDE 93 Trace Armstrong
70 Mike Chalenski
LDT 95 Tim Bowens
RDT 92 Daryl Gardener
72 Barron Tanner
RDE 99 Jason Taylor
75 Shane Burton
LLB 51 Anthony Harris
50 Dwight Hollier
MLB 54 Zach Thomas
56 Mike Crawford
RLB 59 Derrick Rodgers
57 O.J. Brigance
LCB 27 Terrell Buckley
24 Jerry Wilson
RCB 29 Sam Madison
34 Tim Jacobs
SS 22 Shawn Wooden
25 Corey Harris
FS 31 Brock Marion
38 Calvin Jackson

SPECIALISTS

K 10 Olindo Mare
P 17 John Kidd
PR 88 Charles Jordan
81 O.J. McDuffie
KOR 32 Jerris McPhail
25 Corey Harris

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	John Avery	RB	Mississippi
2	Patrick Surtain	CB	Southern Mississippi
2	Kenny Mixon	DE	LSU
3	Brad Jackson	LB	Cincinnati
3	Larry Shannon	WR	East Carolina
4	Lorenzo Bromell	DE	Clemson
5	Scott Shaw	G	Michigan State
6	Nathan Strikwerda	C	Northwestern
6	John Dutton	QB	Nevada
7	Jim Bundren	G	Clemson

AFC EAST

New England patriots

WHEN we last saw the New England Patriots, Drew Bledsoe was fumbling to snuff a drive for the possible winning points in last year's AFC Divisional Playoff game against the Pittsburgh Steelers

Among four New England turnovers that day, this one came with just over a minute-and-a-half to play in an eventual 7 6 Pittsburgh victory to end any hope of a return to the Super Bowl

The Patriots were without injured running back Curtis Martin at the time It is a situation they'll have to get used to this year since he's gone off to New York to join the man who guided New England to Super Bowl XXXI Martin and head coach Bill Parcells are now with the division rival New York Jets, and represent a real threat to the Patriots' hold on the top spot in the AFC East To make matters worse, Parcells also lured fullback Keith Byars to New York

The Patriots will obviously miss the talents of Martin, but they grabbed running back Robert Edwards with the 18th overall pick in the draft He'll be the man on the spot, as the Pats try to stay ahead of not only the Jets, but also the Miami Dolphins

With Sam Gash gone to the Buffalo Bills, the Patriots will put Tony Carter, signed as a free agent from the Chicago Bears, in to run interference for Edwards and help protect Bledsoe They also have draft pick Chris Floyd

If the running game doesn't come through, it's worth mentioning that Bledsoe threw touchdown passes to 10 different players last year, finishing the season with 28 TD strikes Bledsoe also completed 60 2 percent of his passes for 3,706 yards. The other end of those passes is in the good hands of receivers such as Ben Coates, who had 66 catches last year, and Terry Glenn, who showed big play potential when he wasn't injured Shawn Jefferson offers another quality receiver, and the Patriots signed one time Indianapolis Colt Brian Stablein for depth

Perhaps, the most important off season signing was veteran offensive tackle Bruce Armstrong. "I am proud that I am

Willie McGinest

NFL Ranking: Offense 15, Defense 19

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**NEW ENGLAND 41**	**SAN DIEGO 7**
SEP. 7	**NEW ENGLAND 31**	**INDIANAPOLIS 6**
SEP. 14	**NEW ENGLAND 27**	**N.Y. JETS 24 (OT)**
SEP. 21	**NEW ENGLAND 31**	**CHICAGO 3**
SEP. 28	Bye	
OCT. 6	**DENVER 34**	**NEW ENGLAND 13**
OCT. 12	**NEW ENGLAND 33**	**BUFFALO 6**
OCT. 19	N.Y JETS 24	NEW ENGLAND 19
OCT. 27	**GREEN BAY 28**	**NEW ENGLAND 10**
NOV. 2	**MINNESOTA 23**	**NEW ENGLAND 18**
NOV. 9	**NEW ENGLAND 31**	**BUFFALO 10**
NOV. 16	**TAMPA BAY 27**	**NEW ENGLAND 7**
NOV. 23	**NEW ENGLAND 27**	**MIAMI 24**
NOV. 30	**NEW ENGLAND 20**	**INDIANAPOLIS 17**
DEC. 7	**NEW ENGLAND 26**	**JACKSONVILLE 20**
DEC. 13	**PITTSBURGH 24**	**NEW ENGLAND 21 (OT)**
DEC. 22	**NEW ENGLAND 14**	**MIAMI 12**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 7	at Denver	8:20	Monday
SEP. 13	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**8:20**	
SEP. 20	**TENNESSEE**	**1:00**	
SEP. 27	Bye		
OCT. 4	at New Orleans	1:00	
OCT. 11	**KANSAS CITY**	**1:00**	
OCT. 19	**NEW YORK JETS**	**8:20**	**Monday**
OCT. 25	at Miami	1:00	
NOV. 1	at Indianapolis	1:00	
NOV. 8	**ATLANTA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 15	at Buffalo	1:00	
NOV. 23	**MIAMI**	**8:20**	**Monday**
NOV. 29	**BUFFALO**	**4:05**	
DEC. 6	at Pittsburgh	1:00	
DEC 13	at St Louis	1 00	
DEC. 20	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1:00**	
DEC. 27	at New York Jets	1:00	

Note All times are local

New England *Patriots*

AFC east

able to finish my career with the Patriots," said Armstrong, the anchor of the Patriots' line. "This is an accomplishment which is as satisfying as the others I've been able to attain in my career. The commitment the organization has made to me is indicative of the commitment we are making to winning a championship."

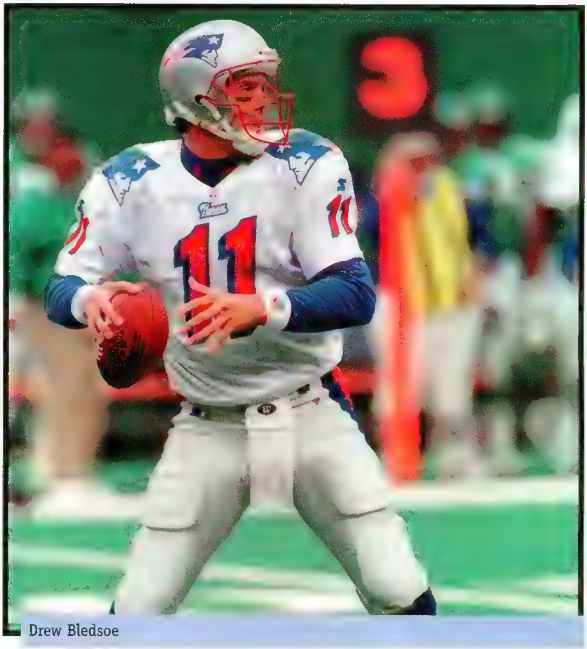
Those accomplishments he refers to include six selections to the Pro Bowl. Armstrong wasn't the only O-lineman to ink a deal. The Patriots also signed tackle Todd Rucci. On defense, Willie McGinest was secured with a new deal to lead a defense that should be strong in 1998. Enhancing that image is Pro Bowl linebacker Chris Slade, who led the team in sacks with nine, and Willie Clay, whose six interceptions topped the Patriots.

The Patriots will have to fill the hole left by the trade of Jimmy Hitchcock to the Minnesota Vikings. Fortunately, draft pick Tebucky Jones, Steve Israel or Chris Canty can be called in. Ty Law will man the other side of the field.

Bledsoe's Patriot missiles may have to be launched often this season. With a questionable running game even if the offense stalls, the Patriots can count on punter Tom Tupa (who led the AFC with a 45.8-yard average), and placekicker Adam Vinatieri, who was good on 25 of 29 field goal attempts last season.

One demon the Patriots will have to battle this season is a schedule that not only includes its division rivals, but also the defending Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, the Steelers and San Francisco 49ers.

Assuming that they get production out of the running game, there's no reason to believe that the Pats won't be back atop the AFC East standings, with Miami and New York nipping at their heels.



Drew Bledsoe

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *N.E. Patriots 10-6*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 84 Shawn Jefferson
82 Vincent Brisby
LT 78 Bruce Armstrong
66 Ed Ellis
LG 68 Max Lane
63 Heath Irwin
C 64 Dave Wohlabaugh
63 Heath Irwin
RG 71 Todd Rucci
61 Damon Denson
RT 77 Zefross Moss
68 Max Lane
TE 87 Ben Coates
WR 88 Terry Glenn
80 Troy Brown
QB 11 Drew Bledsoe
16 Scott Zolak
RB 30 Tony Carter
FB 35 Marrio Grier
23 Sedrick Shaw

DEFENSE

LE 74 Chris Sullivan
96 Mike Jones
LT 97 Mark Wheeler
90 Chad Eaton
RT 95 Henry Thomas
72 Devin Wyman
RE 55 Willie McGinest
98 Brandon Mitchell
WLB 53 Chris Slade
99 Vernon Crawford
MLB 52 Ted Johnson
58 Marty Moore
SLB 59 Todd Collins
54 Tedy Bruschi
LCB 24 Ty Law
26 Chris Canty
RCB 21 Steve Israel
SS 36 Lawyer Milloy
25 Larry Whigham
FS 32 Willie Clay
42 Chris Carter

SPECIALISTS

K 4 Adam Vinatieri
19 Tom Tupa
P 19 Tom Tupa
4 Adam Vinatieri
PR 80 Troy Brown
KOR 29 Derrick Cullors

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Robert Edwards	RB	Georgia
1	Tebucky Jones	CB	Syracuse
2	Tony Simmons	WR	Wisconsin
2	Rod Rutledge	TE	Alabama
3	Chris Floyd	FB	Michigan
3	Greg Spires,	DE	Florida State
4	Leonta Rheams	DT	Houston
5	Ron Merkerson	LB	Colorado
6	Harold Shaw	RB	Southern Mississippi
7	Jason Anderson	C	BYU

AFC EAST

New York Jets

THE BIG Tuna was a big hit in the Big Apple. With the foundation of another apparently successful rebuilding project already laid, head coach Bill Parcells is also building his reputation as a magic man.

After winning a couple of Super Bowls with the New York Giants, Parcells coached the Patriots in the '97 Super Bowl just two years ago, before returning to the Big Apple, where he brought the Jets to within a game of taking the Jets to post-season in 1997.

Unfortunately for Jets' fans, their team was grounded 13-10 in Detroit, where Barry Sanders rushed for 184 yards and scored the go-ahead touchdown in the Lions' victory.

A 9-7 record may not be all that exciting for some, but remember that the Jets could only manage one win the year before. Eight more victories represent a huge leap that's expected to continue this year with the acquisition of running back Curtis Martin, who toiled for Parcells during the march to the Super Bowl two years ago.

Martin, who was drafted by Parcells in the third round of the 1995 draft, ran for more than 1,000 yards each year, winning rookie honors and was named to a couple of Pro Bowls. As a Patriot, he rushed 958 times for 3,799 yards, averaging four yards a carry and scoring 32 touchdowns. He's versatile as well, catching 114 passes for 825 yards and five touchdowns.

Parcells figures the financial gamble and the draft choices he gave up is worth it, even if Martin did miss the final five games of the season with an abdominal injury. Martin isn't the only Patriot who was coveted by Parcells, who has become a thorn in the side of his old team, grabbing fullback Keith Byars and offensive lineman Mike Gisler from New England.

Having secured Martin, Parcells parted with Adrian Murrell, a five-year Jet who rushed for over 1,000 yards on two occasions. He joined the Arizona Cardinals.

The fact that the Jets ranked 26th in rushing among NFL teams dictated a change in direction. Parcells also sent fullback Lorenzo Neal to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, defensive

Keyshawn Johnson

NFL Ranking: *Offense 22, Defense 24*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**N.Y. JETS 41**	**SEATTLE 3**
SEP. 7	BUFFALO 28	N.Y. JETS 22
SEP. 14	NEW ENGLAND 27	N.Y. JETS 24 (OT)
SEP. 21	**N.Y. JETS 23**	**OAKLAND 22**
SEP. 28	**N.Y. JETS 31**	**CINCINNATI 14**
OCT. 5	**N.Y. JETS 16**	**INDIANAPOLIS 12**
OCT. 12	MIAMI 31	N.Y. JETS 23
OCT. 19	**N.Y. JETS 24**	**NEW ENGLAND 19**
OCT. 26	Bye	
NOV. 2	**N.Y. JETS 19**	**BALTIMORE 16 (OT)**
NOV. 9	MIAMI 24	N.Y. JETS 17
NOV. 16	**N.Y. JETS 23**	**CHICAGO 15**
NOV. 23	**N.Y. JETS 23**	**MINNESOTA 21**
NOV. 30	BUFFALO 20	N.Y. JETS 10
DEC. 7	INDIANAPOLIS 22	N.Y. JETS 14
DEC. 14	**N.Y. JETS 31**	**TAMPA BAY 0**
DEC. 21	DETROIT 13	NY JETS 10

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at San Francisco	4:15	
SEP. 13	**BALTIMORE**	**1:00**	
SEP. 20	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**1:00**	
SEP. 27	Bye		
OCT. 4	**MIAMI**	**1:00**	
OCT. 11	at St. Louis	4:15	
OCT. 19	at New England	8:20	Monday
OCT. 25	**ATLANTA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 1	at Kansas City	4:05	
NOV. 8	**BUFFALO**	**4:15**	
NOV. 15	at Indianapolis	1:00	
NOV. 22	at Tennessee	4:15	
NOV. 29	**CAROLINA**	**1:00**	
DEC. 6	**SEATTLE**	**1:00**	
DEC. 13	at Miami	8:20	
DEC. 19	at Buffalo	12:35	Saturday
DEC. 27	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**	

Note: All times are local

New York Jets
AFC east

end Hugh Douglas to the Philadelphia Eagles and acquired free agent offensive lineman Kevin Mawae from the Seattle Seahawks

When all of the wheeling and dealing was done, Parcells had stockpiled a dozen draft picks One that intrigues him is quarterback Scott Frost of the Nebraska Cornhuskers, who grabbed a share of the national collegiate title earlier this year At 6-foot-2, 220 pounds, Parcells sees Frost as a safety and has compared him to Steve Atwater of the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos

With the Jets struggling deep inside enemy territory last year, they counted on the leg of rookie placekicker John Hall to put points on the board. He finished third in AFC scoring with 120 points and showed an ability to kick from long range, hitting on four of six field goal attempts from beyond 50 yards

The Jets weren't exactly a big-play team as Keyshawn Johnson led receivers with 70 catches for 963 yards and five touchdowns, while Wayne Chrebet contributed 58 catches for 799 yards and three touchdowns The Jets also need better production at quarterback. Combined, the recently departed Neil O'Donnell, and Glenn Foley threw for 20 touchdowns, while giving up 10 interceptions

Defensively, the Jets struggled, but there were some bright spots Otis Smith, another ex-Patriot, led with six interceptions and was re-signed. Aaron Glenn was named to the Pro Bowl and both players give the team two good corners Glenn also shines on return teams, averaging an AFC-high 26 5 yards on kickoff returns, while Leon Johnson averages 12.1 on punt returns. Johnson returned a punt and kickoff for touchdowns last year

Glenn Foley

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: N.Y. Jets 9-7
playoff bound: yes

Depth Chart

OFFENSE
WR 19 Keyshawn Johnson
86 Alex Van Dyke
LT 66 Lonnie Palelei
LG 63 Lamont Burns
63Todd Burger
C 52 Kevin Mawae
67 Mike Gisler
RG 70 Matt O'Dwyer
62 Todd Burger
RT 75 Siupeli Malamala
77 Jay Hagood
TE 88 Kyle Brady
84 Fred Baxter
WR 81 Jeff Graham
80 Wayne Chrebet
QB 4 Glenn Foley
12 Vinny Testaverde
RB 28 Curtis Martin
32 Leon Johnson
FB 41 Keith Byars
27 Jerald Sowell

DEFENSE
LE 95 Rick Lyle
92 Bobby Hamilton
NT 72 Jason Ferguson
98 Ronnie Dixon
RE 94 Rick Terry
93 Ernie Logan
OLB 57 Mo Lewis
53 Chad Cascadden
ILB 54 Dwayne Gordon
51 Matt Finkes
ILB 55 Marvin Jones
58 James Farrior
OLB 58 James Farrior
53 Chad Cascadden
LCB 31 Aaron Glenn
24 Ray Mickens
RCB 45 Otis Smith
42 Marcus Coleman
SS 21 Victor Green
30 Chris Hayes
FS 26 Jerome Henderson
44 Corwin Brown

SPECIALISTS
P 11 Brian Hansen
9 John Hall
K 9 John Hall
11 Brian Hansen
PR 32 Leon Johnson
89 Dedric Ward
KOR 31 Aaron Glenn
89 Dedric Ward

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
2	Dorian Boose	DE	Washington State
3	Scott Frost	S	Nebraska
3	Kevin Williams	CB	Oklahoma State
4	Jason Fabini	DT	Cincinnati
5	Casey Dailey	LB	Northwestern
5	Doug Karczewski	G	Virginia
5	Blake Spence	TE	Oregon
5	Eric Bateman	OT	BYU
6	Eric Ogbogu	DE	Maryland
6	Chris Brazzell	WR	Angelo (Texas) State
6	Dustin Johnson	RB	BYU
7	Lawrence Hart	TE	Southern

AFC CENTRAL

Baltimore ravens

THE Baltimore Ravens got caught in the midst of a quarterback shuffle during the off-season.

Now, head coach Ted Marchibroda and quarterback Jim Harbaugh are looking to rekindle the magic they created in Indianapolis three years ago when the Colts very nearly found themselves in the Super Bowl. The talented Harbaugh earned his nickname Captain Comeback after taking a beating in Indianapolis. Last year, he missed a lot of time with a hand injury, but will be protected by a talented young line in Baltimore. He'll be backed up by quarterback Eric Zeier.

Harbaugh was traded to Baltimore when the Colts used their No. 1 draft pick overall to select the much-heralded Peyton Manning from the University of Tennessee Volunteers. For every action, there's a reaction, so while it was "hello Peyton, goodbye Harbaugh" in Indianapolis, it was "hello Jim, goodbye Vinny Testaverde" in Baltimore. After playing in the Pro Bowl, Testaverde's inconsistency proved too much and he was replaced by Zeier late in the season before being released.

Testaverde isn't the only familiar face gone from the offense. Running back Barry Morris picked up 774 yards last year but suffered through off-the-field problems and was traded. The Ravens gave up a third-round draft choice to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in order to acquire Errict Rhett, a former 1,000 yard rusher whose workload had been reduced with the emergence of Warrick Dunn.

The Ravens also got some good production from rookie back Jay Graham in 1997, and combined with Rhett, should upgrade the running game this season. The Ravens also brought in free agent fullback Roosevelt Potts from the Miami Dolphins, whose blocking should also help.

It remains to be seen what the departure of free agent

Peter Boulware

NFL Ranking: *Offense 9, Defense 25*

'97 Results

AUG.	31	JACKSONVILLE 28	BALTIMORE 27
SEP.	**7**	**BALTIMORE 23**	**CINCINNATI 10**
SEP.	**14**	**BALTIMORE 24**	**N.Y. GIANTS 23**
SEP.	**21**	**BALTIMORE 36**	**TENNESSEE 10**
SEP.	28	SAN DIEGO 21	BALTIMORE 17
OCT.	5	PITTSBURGH 42	BALTIMORE 34
OCT.	12	Bye	
OCT.	19	MIAMI 24	BALTIMORE 13
OCT.	**26**	**BALTIMORE 20**	**WASHINGTON 17**
NOV.	2	N.Y. JETS 19	BALTIMORE 16 (OT)
NOV.	9	PITTSBURGH 37	BALTIMORE 0
NOV.	**16**	**BALTIMORE 10**	**PHILADELPHIA 10 (OT)**
NOV.	23	ARIZONA 16	BALTIMORE 13
NOV.	30	JACKSONVILLE 29	BALTIMORE 27
DEC.	**7**	**BALTIMORE 31**	**SEATTLE 24**
DEC.	**14**	**BALTIMORE 21**	**TENNESSEE 19**
DEC.	21	CINCINNATI 16	BALTIMORE 14

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**PITTSBURGH**	**1:00**
SEP.	13	at New York Jets	1:00
SEP.	20	at Jacksonville	4:15
SEP.	**27**	**CINCINNATI**	**8:20**
OCT.	4	Bye	
OCT.	**11**	**TENNESSEE**	**1:00**
OCT.	18	at Pittsburgh	1:00
OCT.	25	at Green Bay	1:00
NOV.	**1**	**JACKSONVILLE**	**1:00**
NOV.	**8**	**OAKLAND**	**1:00**
NOV.	15	at San Diego	4:05
NOV.	22	at Cincinnati	4:15
NOV.	**29**	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**1:00**
DEC.	6	at Tennessee	3:15
DEC.	**13**	**MINNESOTA**	**4:15**
DEC.	20	at Chicago	1:00
DEC.	**27**	**DETROIT**	**1:00**

Note: All times are local

Baltimore *Ravens*

AFC central

Derrick Alexander to the Kansas City Chiefs will do to the receiving corps, but the Ravens still have Michael Jackson and his 69 catches, not to mention Jermaine Lewis. Lewis had six touchdown catches and excelled on special teams when he wasn't recuperating from an ankle injury. The Ravens used their second pick to grab Pat Johnson from Oregon and he'll likely replace Alexander. Tight end Eric Green came through with a career-high 65 passes in 1997.

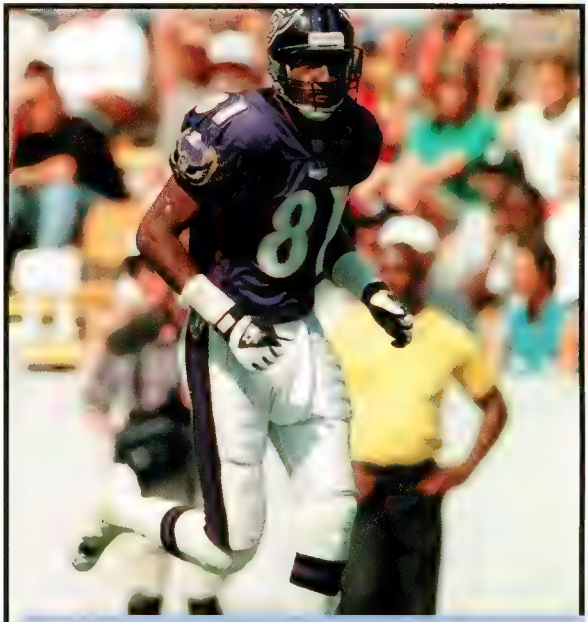
The offensive line is solid with Jonathon Ogden, a Pro Bowl tackle, while on the other side Orlando Brown is an offensive captain. The Ravens also have Jeff Blackshear, Wally Williams and Ben Cavil.

Defensively, Michael McCrary recorded nine sacks at end while tackle Tony Siragusa stopped the run. The Ravens also have Rob Burnett, James Jones, Keith Washington and Larry Webster to round out the line.

A swarming defense is led by middle linebacker Ray Lewis, while Peter Boulware led the team with 11.5 sacks in his rookie year. Another first-year player, Jamie Sharper, improved as the year wore on and finished with 79 tackles.

The Ravens lost free agent Antonio Langham to the San Francisco 49ers, but the secondary was bolstered by the arrival of Rod Woodson from the 49ers. The Ravens used their 10th overall pick to grab cornerback Duane Starks.

Even with Harbaugh in the lineup, it will be difficult for the Ravens to soar much higher than the 6-9-1 record they posted in the tough AFC Central last season. They may have just enough juice to slip past the Cincinnati Bengals into fourth place.



Michael Jackson

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Baltimore Ravens 6-10*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	81 Michael Jackson	LE	90 Rob Burnett	P	9 Greg Montgomery
	80 Ryan Yarborough		93 Keith Washington	K	3 Matt Stover
LT	75 Jonathan Ogden	LT	97 James Jones	KO	3 Matt Stover
	71 Spencer Folau		79 Larry Webster	PR	84 Jermaine Lewis
LG	65 Ben Cavil	RT	98 Tony Siragusa		83 James Roe
	70 Mike Flynn		79 Larry Webster		
C	63 Wally Williams	RE	99 Michael McCrary		
RG	69 Jeff Blackshear		94 Mike Frederick		
	63 Wally Williams	LLB	58 Peter Boulware		
RT	77 Orlando Brown		51 Cornell Brown		
	71 Spencer Folau	MLB	52 Ray Lewis		
TE	86 Eric Green		54 Tyrus McCloud		
	88 Brian Kinchen	RLB	55 Jamie Sharper		
WR	84 Jermaine Lewis		51 Cornell Brown		
	83 James Roe	LCB	26 Rod Woodson		
QB	4 Jim Harbaugh		24 Donny Brady		
	10 Eric Zeier	RCB	25 DeRon Jenkins		
RB	32 Errict Rhett	SS	41 Ralph Staten		
	34 Jay Graham		37 Bennie Thompson		
FB	23 Kenyon Cotton	FS	20 Kim Herring		
			31 Rondell Jones		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Duane Starks	CB	Miami Fla.
2	Pat Johnson	WR	Oregon
5	Martin Chase	DT	Oklahoma
5	Ryan Sutter	S	Colorado
6	Ron Rogers	LB	Georgia Tech
6	Sammy Williams	OT	Oklahoma
7	Cam Quayle	TE	Weber State

AFC CENTRAL

Cincinnati bengals

THE Cincinnati Bengals were out of it before they got into it in 1997

Last year, the Bengals won their home opener, only to lose the next seven. On the flip side, they finished strongly, winning four of five, including the last three In back-to-back games, the Bengals scored a grand total of 72 points, making a prediction difficult in 1998

Will the real Cincinnati Bengals please stand up?

Jeff Blake is the incumbent at quarterback, with Boomer Esiason taking his act from the football field to the broadcast booth on Monday Night Football. In two years as a starter before last season, Blake threw 52 touchdowns in 32 games and was being hailed as one of the best young arms in the NFL

However, Blake has been as hot and cold as his team Last year, he threw eight TD passes, with seven intercept-ons, before head coach Bruce Coslett turned to Esiason late in the year Now in his seventh season, Blake needs to rebound if the Bengals are to improve on their 7-9 record This year, Paul Justin will be waiting in the wings after being traded to the Bengals by the Indianapolis Colts

The late-season emergence of running back Corey Dillon enhances a potentially dangerous offense that scored 355 points last year. Dillon finished the season with 233 carries for 1,129 yards and 10 touchdowns. Meanwhile, Ki-Jana Carter scored seven touchdowns and, on paper, gives the Bengals a solid one-two punch in the backfield

Also on paper, the Bengals should have a solid receiving corps with the likes of Darnay Scott, who finished with 54 catches for 797 yards and five touchdowns In addition, Carl Pickens had 52 receptions for 695 yards and five touchdowns, while Tony McGee added six touchdowns. All the while, David Dunn showed flashes as a receiver and returner

A surprise for Cincinnati was the play of veteran Eric Bieniemy, who averaged 23 2 yards per kickoff return and had a 102-yarder for a touchdown

Meanwhile, the offensive line came together and by the end of the season was allowing an average of just 2.1 sacks per game, but there is still a question of depth

Defensively, the Bengals will rely on end Clyde Simmons after pursuing other stalwart free agents. Simmons, 33, ranks

Carl Pickens

NFL Ranking: *Offense 10, Defense 28*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**CINCINNATI 24**	**ARIZONA 21**
SEP. 7	BALTIMORE 23	CINCINNATI 10
SEP. 14	Bye	
SEP. 21	DENVER 38	CINCINNATI 20
SEP. 28	N.Y. JETS 31	CINCINNATI 14
OCT 5	JACKSONVILLE 21	CINCINNATI 13
OCT. 12	TENNESSEE 30	CINCINNATI 7
OCT. 19	PITTSBURGH 26	CINCINNATI 10
OCT. 26	N.Y. GIANTS 29	CINCINNATI 27
NOV. 2	**CINCINNATI 38**	**SAN DIEGO 31**
NOV. 9	**CINCINNATI 28**	**INDIANAPOLIS 13**
NOV. 16	PITTSBURGH 20	CINCINNATI 3
NOV. 23	**CINCINNATI 31**	**JACKSONVILLE 26**
NOV. 30	PHILADELPHIA 44	CINCINNATI 42
DEC. 4	**CINCINNATI 41**	**TENNESSEE 14**
DEC. 14	**CINCINNATI 31**	**DALLAS 24**
DEC. 21	**CINCINNATI 16**	**BALTIMORE 14**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**TENNESSEE**	**1:00**
SEP 13	at Detroit	1:00
SEP. 20	**GREEN BAY**	**1:00**
SEP. 27	at Baltimore	8:20
OCT. 4	Bye	
OCT. 11	**PITTSBURGH**	**1:00**
OCT 18	at Tennessee	1:00
OCT. 25	at Oakland	4:15
NOV. 1	**DENVER**	**1:00**
NOV. 8	at Jacksonville	1:00
NOV 15	at Minnesota	1:00
NOV. 22	**BALTIMORE**	**4:15**
NOV. 29	**JACKSONVILLE**	**1:00**
DEC. 6	**BUFFALO**	**1:00**
DEC. 13	at Indianapolis	1:00
DEC. 20	at Pittsburgh	1:00
DEC. 27	**TAMPA BAY**	**1:00**

Note All times are local

Cincinnati Bengals

AFC central

11th on the NFL's all-time sacks list with 109, which is why the 12-year veteran was given a one-year contract worth $1.5-million. While playing with the Jacksonville Jaguars last season, Simmons set a club record with eight-and-a-half sacks and in games against the Bengals, he recorded three sacks in two games. He also blocked a field goal two years ago against Cincinnati

"We pursued Clyde because he's a talented, gifted veteran with proven pass-rush ability and he's frankly been a thorn in our side the past couple of years," says coach Bruce Coslet

The Bengals looked to the draft to upgrade their defense and used their two first round picks to select linebackers Takeo Spikes and Brian Simmons Spikes has speed and roams all over the field, while Simmons is fast and athletic with good size

Recently-signed end John Copeland will ease his way back into the lineup after injuring an Achilles tendon, while another end, Michael Bankston, was brought in as a free agent from the Arizona Cardinals The Bengals could also use better production from one-time Pittsburgh Steeler defensive end Ray Seals, who checks in at more than 300 pounds but hopes to lower that weight

The Bengals defense allowed the opposition 405 points last season and lost linebackers Gerald Dixon and Ricardo McDonald to free agency

In order to make the post-season, the Bengals will need consistency from Blake and big plays from the much-maligned defense in '98, when they play four teams from the NFC's tough Central Division—the Green Bay Packers, Detroit Lions, Minnesota Vikings and Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The only department the Bengals don't want to be consistent in is losing seasons.

Corey Dillon

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Cincinnati Bengals 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE
WR	80 David Dunn
	81 Carl Pickens
LT	77 Kevin Sargent
	60 Rod Jones
LG	74 Rich Braham
	72 Scott Brumfield
C	65 Darrick Brilz
	62 Brock Gutierrez
RG	66 Ken Blackman
	72 Scott Brumfield
RT	71 Willie Anderson
	75 Anthony Brown
TE	82 Tony McGee
	89 Marco Battaglia
WR	88 Darnay Scott
	84 Mike Jenkins
QB	7 Boomer Esiason
	8 Jeff Blake
HB	28 Corey Dillon
	32 Ki-Jana Carter
FB	44 Brian Milne
	21 Eric Bieniemy

	DEFENSE
LE	92 John Copeland
	xx Clyde Simmons
NT	96 Brentson Buckner
	67 Kimo von Oelhoffen
RE	63 Michael Bankston
	94 Jevon Langford
OLB	50 James Francis
	52 Tim Terry
ILB	58 Steve Tovar
	98 Canute Curtis
ILB	91 Billy Granville
	55 Andre Collins
OLB	57 Reinard Wilson
LCB	33 Ashley Ambrose
	23 Corey Sawyer
RCB	22 Jimmy Spencer
SS	42 Lawrence Wright
FS	31 Greg Myers

	SPECIALISTS
K	9 Doug Pelfrey
	11 Lee Johnson
P	9 Doug Pelfrey
	11 Lee Johnson
PR	31 Greg Myers
	23 Corey Sawyer
KOR	21 Eric Bieniemy

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Takeo Spikes	LB	Auburn
1	Brian Simmons	LB	North Carolina
2	Artrell Hawkins	CB	Cincinnati
3	Steve Foley	LB	Northeast Louisiana
3	Mike Goff	G	Iowa
4	Glen Steele	DE	Michigan
6	Jason Tucker	WR	TCU
7	Marcus Parker	FB	Virginia Tech
7	Damian Vaughn	TE	Miami (Ohio)

AFC CENTRAL

Jacksonville Jaguars

A year ago, predictions glowed about the prospects of the NFL's expansion teams of '95, after each went on to their respective conference finals in '98, both stopping one game short of the Super Bowl

The Carolina Panthers fell to 7-9 in 1997 after playing in the NFC Championship the year prior. The Jacksonville Jaguars, however, overcame early-season quarterback injury woes and posted an impressive 11-5 record to finish tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers atop the AFC Central standings

It was Jacksonville, however, that was forced into the Wild Card Game and they weren't able to repeat the magic of a year earlier when they were able to upset the mighty Denver Broncos 31-27. This time, the Jags lost 42-17 to the eventual Super Bowl champion in a game that saw Terrell Davis romp for 184 yards and a couple of touchdowns

Despite the loss, the Jaguars have served notice that they are a contending team, with a bona fide star in quarterback Mark Brunell, who threw for 3,281 yards and 18 touchdowns, and only seven interceptions. As a double threat at quarterback he kept defenses on their toes with his running ability, adding another 257 yards on 48 carries with two touchdowns

Those numbers were compiled after Brunell missed the first two games of the season and was replaced by Rob Johnson, who was traded to the Buffalo Bills in the off-season. Still, the Jaguars pulled through with a couple of wins in Brunell's absence, but that's not to hint that Brunell is anything but an important cog in the Jaguars' offense. He's clearly established himself as an NFL marquee player and is a legitimate contender for MVP honors this season

As Jacksonville looks for its third post-season appearance in its four-year existence, the offense is coming off a year in which it scored 394 points and averaged 231 5 passing yards per game

Obviously, the Jags would prefer to see kicker Mike Hollis only on converts, but they know they can rely on him in field goal situations too, as he trotted on to the field 36 times and hit on 31 three-point attempts. He was also two-for-two from beyond 50 yards and his 134 points topped the AFC in scoring

James Stewart

NFL Ranking: *Offense 7, Defense 23*

'97 Results

AUG.	**31**	**JACKSONVILLE 28**	**BALTIMORE 27**
SEP.	**7**	**JACKSONVILLE 40**	**N.Y. GIANTS 13**
SEP.	14	Bye	
SEP.	**22**	**JACKSONVILLE 30**	**PITTSBURGH 21**
SEP.	28	WASHINGTON 24	JACKSONVILLE 12
OCT.	**5**	**JACKSONVILLE 21**	**CINCINNATI 13**
OCT.	**12**	**JACKSONVILLE 38**	**PHILADELPHIA 21**
OCT.	19	DALLAS 26	JACKSONVILLE 22
OCT.	26	PITTSBURGH 23	JACKSONVILLE 17 (OT)
NOV.	**2**	**JACKSONVILLE 30**	**TENNESSEE 24**
NOV.	**9**	**JACKSONVILLE 24**	**KANSAS CITY 10**
NOV.	**16**	**JACKSONVILLE 17**	**TENNESSEE 9**
NOV.	23	CINCINNATI 31	JACKSONVILLE 26
NOV.	**30**	**JACKSONVILLE 29**	**BALTIMORE 27**
DEC.	7	NEW ENGLAND 26	JACKSONVILLE 20
DEC.	**14**	**JACKSONVILLE 20**	**BUFFALO 14**
DEC.	**21**	**JACKSONVILLE 20**	**OAKLAND 9**

'98 Schedule

SEP.	6	at Chicago	1:00	
SEP.	**13**	**KANSAS CITY**	**1:00**	
SEP.	**20**	**BALTIMORE**	**4:15**	
SEP.	27	at Tennessee	1:00	
OCT.	4	Bye		
OCT.	**12**	**MIAMI**	**8:20**	**Monday**
OCT.	18	at Buffalo	1:00	
OCT.	25	at Denver	4:15	
NOV.	1	at Baltimore	1:00	
NOV.	**8**	**CINCINNATI**	**1:00**	
NOV.	**15**	**TAMPA BAY**	**4:15**	
NOV.	22	at Pittsburgh	1:00	
NOV.	29	at Cincinnati	1:00	
DEC.	**6**	**DETROIT**	**1:00**	
DEC.	**13**	**TENNESSEE**	**1:00**	
DEC.	20	at Minnesota	8 20	
DEC.	**28**	**PITTSBURGH**	**8:20**	**Monday**

Note All times are ocal

Jacksonville Jaguars

AFC central

The running game will be without Natrone Means, who returned to the San Diego Chargers via free agency, but the Jags still have James Stewart, who scored eight touchdowns In addition, Jacksonville used the ninth pick overall to pick up running back Fred Taylor. A few rounds later, the Jags added Tavian Banks

There were sighs of relief when Jacksonville signed Brunell's favorite target, Jimmy Smith, to a long-term deal. Smith was eligible for free agency, but Jacksonville locked him up through the year 2003

Certainly, the investment on Smith was wise as he's entering the prime of his career after starting all 16 regular season games last year; he earned his first Pro Bowl appearance by catching 82 passes for 1,324 yards, third-highest in the AFC

With Smith averaging 16.1 yards per catch, Jacksonville became the NFL's fourth-best passing offense Keenan McCardell caught a team-high 85 passes for 1,164 yards and five touchdowns to finish as runner-up to Oakland's Tim Brown among AFC receivers. Tight end Pete Mitchell, who was re-signed, is coming off a fine year in which he caught 35 passes for 380 yards and four touchdowns.

On the O-line, starting tackle Tony Boselli is entering his fourth year and remains one of the best in the business. The Jags also re-signed guard Rich Tylski and brought in free agent center Quentin Neujahr from the Baltimore Ravens He'll be insurance for Michael Cheever, who's battled back problems

On defense, Bryce Paup's pass-rushing skills will be critical with the loss of Clyde Simmons Tony Brackens had seven sacks and Jacksonville's leading tackler, linebacker Bryan Schwartz, was re-signed, as was veteran Jeff Lageman.

The Jags will not only be contenders for the division, but also for the best record in the AFC this year.

Keenan McCardell

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: Jacksonville Jaguars 11-5
playoff bound: yes

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 82 Jimmy Smith
84 Reggie Barlow
LT 71 Tony Boselli
62 Ben Coleman
LG 62 Ben Coleman
67 Jeff Novak
C 66 Quentin Neujahr
RG 76 Rich Tylski
73 Brian DeMarco
RT 72 Leon Searcy
73 Brian DeMarco
TE 83 Pete Mitchell
88 Damon Jones
WR 87 Keenan McCardell
80 Willie Jackson
QB 8 Mark Brunell
16 Steve Matthews
RB 33 James Stewart
23 Randy Jordan
FB 31 Daimon Shelton

DEFENSE

LE 56 Jeff Lageman
99 Joel Smeenge
LT 97 Renaldo Wynn
95 Jose White
RT 91 Seth Payne
98 Jabbar Threats
RE 95 Bryce Paup
SLB 51 Kevin Hardy
57 Jeff Kopp
MLB 58 Bryan Schwartz
52 Brant Boyer
WLB 50 Eddie Robinson
54 James Hamilton
LCB 41 Dave Thomas
21 Aaron Beasley
RCB 27 Deon Figures
26 Kevin Devine
SS 45 Travis Davis
32 Mike Logan
FS 37 Chris Hudson

SPECIALISTS

K 1 Mike Hollis
P 4 Bryan Barker
PR 84 Reggie Barlow
87 Keenan McCardell
KOR 84 Reggie Barlow
32 Mike Logan

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Fred Taylor	RB	Florida
1	Donovin Darius	S	Syracuse
2	Cordell Taylor	CB	Hampton
3	Jonathan Quinn	QB	Middle Tennessee State
4	Tavian Banks	RB	Iowa
4	Harry Deligianis	DT	Youngstown State
5	John Wade	C	Marshall
6	Lemanzer Williams	DE	Minnesota
6	Kevin McLeod	FB	Auburn
7	Alvis Whitted	WR	North Carolina State
7	Brandon Tolbert	LB	Georgia

AFC CENTRAL

Pittsburgh Steelers

THE Pittsburgh Steelers are hoping the Bus doesn't stop here.

Jerome (Bus) Bettis averaged 4 4 yards on his 375 carries, finishing the season with 1,665 yards and seven touchdowns for the Steelers, who failed to earn their second Super Bowl appearance in three years

After Kordell Stewart hit Charles Johnson in the end zone with just under three minutes to go, the Steelers still had a three-point deficit to deal with The Denver Broncos held on for a 24-21 victory and carried its momentum through to a Super Bowl win against the Green Bay Packers

The Steelers and Jacksonville Jaguars finished with identical 11-5 records atop the AFC Central standings, but Pittsburgh went directly to the Divisional Games and defeated the defending AFC champion New England Patriots, 7-6, before losing to Denver in the conference championship. This year, the Steelers may be hard-pressed to get that far, which is why the Bus' motor needs to be finely-tuned

As Pittsburgh strives for its seventh consecutive playoff berth, it will be without offensive coordinator Chan Gailey, who has departed for the head coaching job of the Dallas Cowboys Gailey is credited for helping Stewart develop at quarterback and he'll be replaced by Ray Sherman from the Minnesota Vikings

Another departure that will be felt is that of Yancey Thigpen, the Steelers' deep threat, who caught 79 passes for 1,398 yards and seven touchdowns last year. Thigpen signed as a free agent with the division rival Tennessee Oilers in the off-season

Offensive tackle John Jackson is gone, too, after signing as a free agent with the San Diego Chargers The Steelers countered by signing former New York Jet starter Roger Duffy and drafted Alan Faneca of LSU The Steelers also have standout center Dermontti Dawson, Will Wolford, Justin Strzelczyk, Jamain Stephens, Paul Wiggins and Brendan Stai

Replacing Thigpen is the biggest challenge in 1998 and the

Charles Johnson

NFL Ranking: *Offense 6, Defense 6*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	DALLAS 37	PITTSBURGH 7
SEP. 7	**PITTSBURGH 14**	**WASHINGTON 13**
SEP. 14	Bye	
SEP. 22	JACKSONVILLE 30	PITTSBURGH 21
SEP. 28	**PITTSBURGH 37**	**TENNESSEE 24**
OCT. 5	**PITTSBURGH 42**	**BALTIMORE 34**
OCT. 12	**PITTSBURGH 24**	**INDIANAPOLIS 22**
OCT. 19	**PITTSBURGH 26**	**CINCINNATI 10**
OCT. 26	**PITTSBURGH 23**	**JACKSONVILLE 17 (OT)**
NOV. 3	KANSAS CITY 13	PITTSBURGH 10
NOV. 9	**PITTSBURGH 37**	**BALTIMORE 0**
NOV. 16	**PITTSBURGH 20**	**CINCINNATI 3**
NOV. 23	PHILADELPHIA 23	PITTSBURGH 20
NOV. 30	**PITTSBURGH 26**	**ARIZONA 20 (OT)**
DEC. 7	**PITTSBURGH 35**	**DENVER 24**
DEC. 13	**PITTSBURGH 24**	**NEW ENGLAND 21 (OT)**
DEC. 21	TENNESSEE 16	PITTSBURGH 6

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at Baltimore	1:00	
SEP. 13	**CHICAGO**	**1:00**	
SEP. 20	at Miami	1:00	
SEP. 27	**SEATTLE**	**4:05**	
OCT. 4	Bye		
OCT 11	at Cincinnati	1:00	
OCT. 18	**BALTIMORE**	**1:00**	
OCT. 26	at Kansas City	8:20	Monday
NOV. 1	**TENNESSEE**	**1:00**	
NOV. 9	**GREEN BAY**	**8:20**	**Monday**
NOV 15	at Tennessee	1:00	
NOV. 22	**JACKSONVILLE**	**1:00**	
NOV. 26	at Detroit	12:35	Thursday
DEC. 6	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**	
DEC. 13	at Tampa Bay	1:00	
DEC. 20	**CINCINNATI**	**1:00**	
DEC. 28	at Jacksonville	8:20	Monday

Note All times are local

Pittsburgh Steelers

AFC central

Steelers will need big-play capabilities from Charles Johnson, a familiar face to Stewart from college days at Colorado. Will Blackwell's also on call, while Stewart is looking at Courtney Hawkins. Expect more passes to be thrown to tight end Mark Bruener this season.

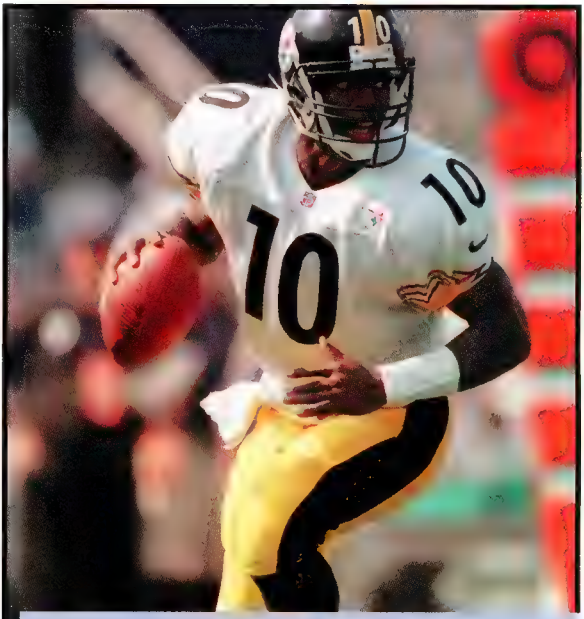
Stewart's passing numbers aren't spectacular, but his ball-control offense gave the Steeler defense some time on the sidelines. When the offense does bog down, there's always efficient veteran placekicker Norm Johnson to call on.

The front seven of the defense is secure with the signings of nose tackle Joel Steed, and linebackers Levon Kirkland and Jason Gildon. All are important cogs in Pittsburgh's trademark 3-4 formation. Rookie Jeremy Staat provides pass-rushing prowess, while ends Nolan Harrison, Kevin Henry and Mike Vrabel work well with the linebackers, which include Greg Lloyd who, due to a string of injuries, requires backup in the form of Donta Jones.

The Steelers shored up the secondary with the free agent signing of cornerback Dewayne Washington from the Minnesota Vikings, allowing Carnell Lake to return to his familiar safety spot. One notable loss is Chad Scott, who probably won't return until late in the season after tearing up his knee.

The BJs was named the team's MVP for the second consecutive year in 1997, making him the first player to do so since Terry Bradshaw in the late 1970s. He is the key as the Steelers struggle to replace the departed Thigpen. As it was during the championship years with Bradshaw, the defense is strong and that will surely help the Pittsburgh cause.

An AFC playoff spot is certainly on the horizon. It's worth noting that the Jacksonville Jaguars are capable of duplicating their record of last season, while the Tennessee Oilers are making noises that they may be a contender, too.



Kordell Stewart

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Pittsburgh Steelers 10-6*
Super Bowl bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 19 Andre Coleman
17 Curtis Marsh
LT 77 Will Wolford
67 Jamain Stephens
LG 77 Will Wolford
68 Brenden Stai
C 63 Dermontti Dawson
62 Roger Duffy
RG 68 Brenden Stai
66 Jim Sweeney
RT 73 Justin Strzelczyk
67 Jamain Stephens
TE 87 Mark Bruener
46 Troy Sadowski
WR 81 Charles Johnson
88 Courtney Hawkins
QB 10 Kordell Stewart
18 Mike Tomczak
RB 36 Jerome Bettis
25 Fred McAfee
FB 34 Tim Lester
38 Jon Witman

DEFENSE

LE 74 Nolan Harrison
96 Mike Vrabel
NT 93 Joel Steed
98 Oliver Gibson
RE 76 Kevin Henry
71 Orpheus Roye
OLB 95 Greg Lloyd
92 Jason Gildon
ILB 99 Levon Kirkland
ILB 50 Earl Holmes
OLB 54 Donta Jones
51 Carlos Emmons
LCB 30 Chad Scott
21 Donnell Woolford
RCB 37 Carnell Lake
20 Dewayne Washington
SS 40 Myron Bell
37 Carnell Lake
FS 39 Darren Perry
24 Chris Oldham

SPECIALISTS

P 4 Josh Miller
PK 9 Norm Johnson
PR 89 Will Blackwell
88 Courtney Hawkins
KOR 89 Will Blackwell
88 Courtney Hawkins

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Alan Faneca	G	LSU
2	Jeremy Staat	DT	Arizona State
3	Chris Conrad	OT	Fresno State
3	Hines Ward	WR	Georgia
4	Deshea Townsend	CB	Alabama
4	Carlos King	FB	North Carolina State
5	Jason Simmons	CB	Arizona State
6	Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala	RB	Utah
6	Ryan Olson	LB	Colorado
7	Angel Rubio	DE	Southeast Misso

989 Sports™

AFC CENTRAL

Tennessee Oilers

THE Tennessee Oilers are on the move again, (from Memphis to Vanderbilt Stadium,) but they're looking at another change in location and we're not talking their scheduled move next year to a new facility in downtown Nashville

The immediate change of location that they seek is in the AFC Central standings and any elevation they make will require improvement on the 8-8 records they've finished with the last two years Last year's 500 mark was good only for third place and didn't get them into the playoffs

Steve McNair continues to improve as a solid NFL quarterback, completing 216 of 415 passes for 2,665 yards and 14 touchdowns He's called Air McNair because of his strong and accurate arm, but just as impressive is his mobility and scrambling skills

A disappointing receiving corps was bolstered by the addition of Yancey Thigpen (from the division rival Pittsburgh Steelers), who finished fourth among AFC receivers with 79 catches for 1,398 yards and seven touchdowns. Also arriving with promise is first round pick Kevin Dyson from the University Utah Chris Sanders, Willie Davis and tight end Frank Wycheck fill out the receiving contingent

Taking the heat off McNair and the passing game is 1996 Rookie of the Year Eddie George, who crashed through the line for 2,767 yards in his first two seasons (including last year's total of 1,399 on 357 carries).

George will, however, miss the talents of guard Kevin Donnalley, who moved on to the Miami Dolphins as a free agent Bruce Matthews and Mark Stepnoski have been regular faces at the Pro Bowl, while tackles Brad Hopkins and Jon Runyan round out the starting offensive line

On the defensive line, second-year man Kenny Holmes enjoyed seven sacks last season, along with Pratt Lyons at the end positions. Henry Ford and Gary Walker anchor the inside and the pass-rushing skills of rookie Joe Salave'a will likely earn him a lot of playing time

Eddie George

NFL Ranking: *Offense 18, Defense 22*

'97 Results

AUG.	**31**	**TENNESSEE 24**	**OAKLAND 21 (OT)**
SEP.	7	MIAMI 16	TENNESSEE 13 (OT)
SEP.	14	Bye	
SEP	21	BALTIMORE 36	TENNESSEE 10
SEP.	28	PITTSBURGH 37	TENNESSEE 24
OCT	5	SEATTLE 16	TENNESSEE 13
OCT.	**12**	**TENNESSEE 30**	**CINCINNATI 7**
OCT.	**19**	**TENNESSEE 28**	**WASHINGTON 14**
OCT.	**26**	**TENNESSEE 41**	**ARIZONA 14**
NOV.	2	JACKSONVILLE 30	TENNESSEE 24
NOV.	**9**	**TENNESSEE 10**	**N.Y. GIANTS 6**
NOV.	16	JACKSONVILLE 17	TENNESSEE 9
NOV.	**23**	**TENNESSEE 31**	**BUFFALO 14**
NOV.	**27**	**TENNESSEE 27**	**DALLAS 14**
DEC	4	CINCINNATI 41	TENNESSEE 14
DEC	14	BALTIMORE 21	TENNESSEE 19
DEC.	**21**	**TENNESSEE 16**	**PITTSBURGH 6**

'98 Schedule

SEP.	6	at Cincinnati	1:00	
SEP.	**13**	**SAN DIEGO**	**1:00**	
SEP.	20	at New England	1:00	
SEP.	**27**	**JACKSONVILLE**	**1:00**	
OCT.	4	Bye		
OCT.	11	at Baltimore	1:00	
OCT.	**18**	**CINCINNATI**	**1:00**	
OCT.	**25**	**CHICAGO**	**4:05**	
NOV.	1	at Pittsburgh	1:00	
NOV.	8	at Tampa Bay	8:20	
NOV.	**15**	**PITTSBURGH**	**1:00**	
NOV.	**22**	**NEW YORK JETS**	**4:15**	
NOV.	29	at Seattle	4:05	
DEC.	**6**	**BALTIMORE**	**4:15**	
DEC.	13	at Jacksonville	1:00	
DEC.	20	at Green Bay	1:00	
DEC.	**26**	**MINNESOTA**	**12:35**	**Saturday**

Note All times are local

Tennessee Oilers

AFC central

In the middle, Barron Wortham contributed 97 tackles and was re-signed, while Joe Bowden and Lonnie Marts round out the linebacking corps. Lenoy Jones and Terry Killens will also compete for playing time

Defensive backs suffered a series of injuries last year, but safeties Marcus Robertson, Blaine Bishop, and cornerback Darryll Lewis were ready for training camp. In addition, the Oilers drafted cornerback Samari Rolle in the second round and have Denard Walker, Steve Jackson and Dainon Sidney around. Rayna Stewart can also be called into the defensive backfield

Punter Craig Hentrich arrives after winning a Super Bowl with the Green Bay Packers two years ago, while Al Del Greco handles the placekicking

In four years, the Oilers have moved from the Houston Astrodome to the Liberty Bowl last year and Vanderbilt Stadium in 1998, they'll get a new home next year. What would make their 1998 and '99 digs home sweet home is if the Oilers are able to match their 6-2 home record of '97

A little more consistency would go a long way toward head coach Jeff Fisher's announced goal of playoffs or bust this year The Oilers' inconsistency was highlighted by a two-week period late in the season when they defeated the Dallas Cowboys 27-14 in Dallas only to turn around and get thumped 41-14 by the Bengals in Cincinnati

However, that's to be expected from a roster filled with rookies and assorted other younger players. With Air McNair flinging the football and Eddie George running it, this group of youngsters have a lot of promise this season and in the future when they move to their new digs

The Pittsburgh Steelers may be looking over their shoulders a lot as this season wears on

Steve McNair

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Tennessee Oilers 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	81 Chris Sanders	LE	78 Anthony Cook	K	3 Al Del Greco
	82 Derrick Mason		98 Pratt Lyons	P	16 Craig Hentrich
LT	72 Brad Hopkins	LT	96 Gary Walker	PR	82 Derrick Mason
	73 Scott Sanderson		91 Josh Evans	KOR	20 Rodney Thomas
LG	74 Bruce Matthews	RT	92 Henry Ford		82 Derrick Mason
	66 Jason Layman		97 Bryant Mix		
C	53 Mark Stepnoski	RE	90 James Roberson		
	74 Bruce Matthews		99 Kenny Holmes		
RG	64 Erik Norgard	LLB	58 Joe Bowden		
RT	69 Jon Runyan		50 Terry Killens		
	71 Melvin Hayes	MLB	52 Barron Wortham		
TE	89 Frank Wycheck		59 Dennis Stallings		
WR	82 Yancey Thigpen	RLB	56 Lonnie Marts		
	84 Willie Davis		51 Lemanski Hall		
QB	9 Steve McNair	LCB	24 Steve Jackson		
	17 Dave Krieg		30 Anthony Dorsett		
RB	27 Eddie George	RCB	29 Daryll Lewis		
	20 Rodney Thomas		25 Denard Walker		
HB	80 Michael Roan	SS	23 Blaine Bishop		
	89 Frank Wycheck		26 Rayna Stewart		
		FS	31 Marcus Robertson		
			26 Rayna Stewart		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Kevin Dyson	WR	Utah
2	Samari Rolle	CB	Florida State
3	Dainon Sydney	CB	Alabama-Birmingham
4	Joe Salave'a	DT	Arizona
5	Benji Olson	OG	Washington
6	Lee Wiggins	S	South Carolina
7	Jimmy Sprotte	LB	Arizona
7	Kevin Long	C	Florida State

AFC WEST

Denver broncos

FOLKS in Mile High country have reason to breathe easy going into the 1998 NFL season, for in the last year, they've had a couple of reasons to celebrate

The first came last January in San Diego when the Broncos ended years of AFC failure and won the Super Bowl 31-24 against the overwhelming favorite and defending champion Green Bay Packers

John Elway's toothy grin that day was replaced by grinding teeth around Denver, as Bronco fans waited months to find out if their star quarterback would be back to help defend their title. At age 37, Elway had mentioned retirement, underwent surgery in his throwing shoulder, but in the end announced that he would be returning

That gave Denver its second reason to celebrate

It's no secret how difficult it is to defend a championship Severe scrutiny and opposition surely follow and the Broncos will appear on 13 nationally-televised games this season, including three Monday Night Football appearances, beginning with the season opener against the New England Patriots

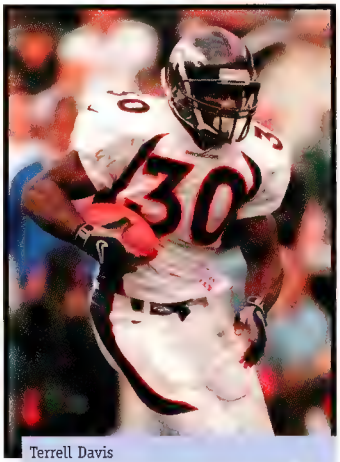
Having a veteran quarterback of Elway's status will go a long way toward defending the title. In 1997, the six-time Pro Bowler completed 56% of his passes for 3,635 yards His 149-87-1 record, which includes playoffs, represents the most wins among starting quarterbacks in the history of the NFL His 48,655 career passing yards ranks second only to Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins and Elway is fourth on the all-time list of touchdown passes with 278

Not only has he won a Super Bowl, but also four AFC championships and six AFC West titles

The glory of 1997 was in doubt until the final whistle After being compared to the Buffalo Bills and Minnesota Vikings, two other teams which had been to the Super Bowl without ever winning, the Broncos lost two of their last three games to fall to 12-4, one game behind the division-leading Kansas City Chiefs

The Broncos took care of the Jacksonville Jaguars at home in the Wild Card Game, 42-17, and advanced to the Super Bowl with road wins in Kansas City, 14-10, and in Pittsburgh against the Steelers, 24-21, in the AFC title game

While Elway was certainly a key component, so too was Terrell Davis, who was named the Super Bowl MVP in his home



Terrell Davis

NFL Ranking: *Offense 1, Defense 5*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**DENVER 19**	**KANSAS CITY 3**
SEP. 7	**DENVER 35**	**SEATTLE 14**
SEP. 14	**DENVER 35**	**ST. LOUIS 14**
SEP. 21	**DENVER 38**	**CINCINNATI 20**
SEP. 28	**DENVER 29**	**ATLANTA 21**
OCT. 6	**DENVER 34**	**NEW ENGLAND 13**
OCT. 12	Bye	
OCT 19	OAKLAND 28	DENVER 25
OCT. 26	**DENVER 23**	**BUFFALO 20**
NOV. 2	**DENVER 30**	**SEATTLE 27**
NOV. 9	**DENVER 34**	**CAROLINA 0**
NOV. 16	KANSAS CITY 24	DENVER 22
NOV. 24	**DENVER 31**	**OAKLAND 3**
NOV. 30	**DENVER 38**	**SAN DIEGO 28**
DEC 7	PITTSBURGH 35	DENVER 24
DEC. 15	SAN FRANCISCO 34	DENVER 17
DEC. 21	**DENVER 38**	**SAN DIEGO 3**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 7	**NEW ENGLAND**	**8:20**	**Monday**
SEP. 13	**DALLAS**	**4:15**	
SEP. 20	at Oakland	4:15	
SEP. 27	at Washington	1:00	
OCT. 4	**PHILADELPHIA**	**4:15**	
OCT. 11	at Seattle	4 15	
OCT. 18	Bye		
OCT. 25	**JACKSONVILLE**	**4:15**	
NOV. 1	at Cincinnati	1:00	
NOV. 8	**SAN DIEGO**	**4:15**	
NOV. 16	at Kansas City	8:20	Monday
NOV. 22	**OAKLAND**	**4:15**	
NOV. 29	at San Diego	8:20	
DEC. 6	**KANSAS CITY**	**4:15**	
DEC. 13	at New York Giants	1:00	
DEC. 21	at Miami	8:20	Monday
DEC. 27	**SEATTLE**	**4:15**	

Note All times are loca

Denver *Broncos*

AFC west

town of San Diego In 1997, he led all AFC rushers with 1,750 yards and tied for the conference lead with 15 touchdowns

With Davis running strong, the Broncos' under-publicized offensive line grew in confidence. Guard Mark Schlereth was re-signed in the off-season, while longtime San Diego Charger and former Pro Bowl lineman Courtney Hall was signed as a free agent. He was brought in as insurance for Gary Zimmerman, who was pondering retirement The Broncos lost free agent guard Brian Habib to the Seattle Seahawks

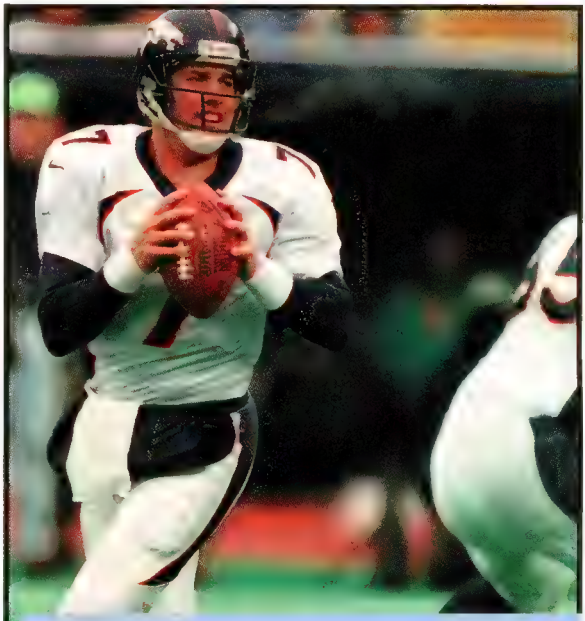
Elway has a new weapon in the air attack, as the Broncos used their first pick to select dangerous wide receiver Marcus Nash Also, in order to prepare for life without Elway, the Broncos used a pick to select Brian Griese, the son of former Miami standout, Bob Griese Last January, Brian led the Michigan Wolverines to a national collegiate title

Nash will join a solid receiving unit, which is led by tight end Shannon Sharpe, who caught 72 passes for 1,107 yards and three touchdowns last year. Rod Smith caught 70 passes for 1,180 yards and a team-high 12 touchdowns, while Ed McCaffrey was used as a possession receiver, but still caught eight touchdown passes

Defensively, Neil Smith, 31, was re-signed in the off-season Smith missed two games last year with an injury, but still managed to tie with Maa Tanuvasa and Alfred Williams for the club lead with eight-and-a-half sacks Free agent defensive end Marvin Washington also signed

Starting safeties Steve Atwater and Tyrone Braxton are getting older, but youngsters Tony Veland, Eric Brown and Darrius Johnson will be pushing for starting jobs

Jason Elam and Tom Rouen give the Broncos a solid place-kicking/punting duo



John Elway

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Denver Broncos 11-5*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	80 Rod Smith	LE	90 Neil Smith	P	16 Tom Rouen
	85 Willie Green		95 Marvin Washington		1 Jason Elam
LT	65 Gary Zimmerman	LT	94 Keith Traylor	K	1 Jason Elam
	74 Harry Swayne		97 Mike Lodish		16 Tom Rouen
LG	69 Mark Schlereth	RT	98 Maa Tanuvasa	KOR	22 Vaughn Hebron
	63 David Diaz-Infante		93 Trevor Pryce		
C	66 Tom Nalen	RE	91 Alfreo Williams		
	63 David Diaz-Infante		72 Ernest Jones		
RG	63 David Diaz-Infante	WLB	51 John Mobley		
	62 Dan Neil		58 Steve Russ		
RT	77 Tony Jones	MLB	56 Keith Burns		
	74 Harry Swayne	SLB	53 Bill Romanowsk		
TE	84 Shannon Sharpe		59 Glenn Cadrez		
	89 Dwayne Carswell	LCB	39 Ray Crockett		
WR	87 Ed McCaffrey		25 Darrius Johnson		
	81 Patrick Jeffers	RCB	23 Darnien Gordon		
QB	7 John Elway		26 Tim McKyer		
	6 Bubby Brister	FS	27 Steve Atwater		
HB	30 Terrell Davis		32 Tony Veland		
	22 Vaughn Hebron	SS	34 Tyrone Braxton		
FB	29 Howard Griffith		33 Dedrick Dodge		
	42 Detron Smith				

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Marcus Nash	WR	Tennessee
2	Eric Brown	S	Mississippi State
3	Brian Griese	QB	Michigan
4	Curtis Alexander	RB	Alabama
5	Chris Howard	RB	Michigan
7	Trey Teague	OT	Tennessee
7	Nate Wayne	LB	Mississippi

989 Sports™

AFC WEST

Kansas City Chiefs

ABOUT the only thing the Kansas City Chiefs haven't done under coach Marty Schottenheimer is play in the Super Bowl

The window of opportunity is closing, and there's no time like the present for the Chiefs to finally take that final step to football's pinnacle

A year ago, everything was in place for Kansas City to play in the championship game. The Chiefs had the AFC's best record at 13-3, won their last six games of the year and had home-field advantage throughout the playoffs

But a not-so humorous thing happened on the way to Super Bowl XXXII, when quarterback Elvis Grbac couldn't communicate properly with the coaching staff on a fateful play late in the conference AFC Divisional Playoff Game against the Denver Broncos

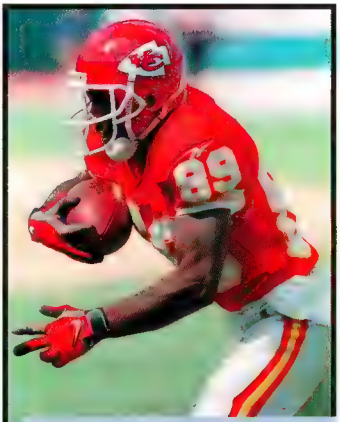
Kansas City's inability to send in a play led to Denver's 14-10 upset and forced the Chiefs into some serious offensive soul-searching

In order to give Grbac more freedom calling his plays at the line of scrimmage, the Chiefs have decided to modify their West Coast style of offense that features intermediate passing routes and very few upfield throws

Offensive coordinator Paul Hackett left the Chiefs after five seasons to become head coach at the University of Southern California Kansas City's running back coach Jimmy Raye was promoted to offensive coordinator

"I want to be able to give the quarterback more opportunities to run the game on the field, audible opportunities," said Schottenheimer "He's got more information than the guy who's standing on the sideline or is upstairs calling it I think what we have to look at trying to do is get the ball up the field some" Andre Rison was the Chiefs' leading receiver (72 catches for 1,092), but the team's second-leading pass catcher was running back Kimble Anders. The acquisition of wideout Derrick Alexander from Baltimore, who led the Ravens in receiving, helps Kansas City

The Chiefs' intent this year is to open up the offense in the absence of Marcus Allen, a future member of The Hall of Fame, who announced his retirement in the off-season Allen came to the Chiefs from the Raiders in 1993 and leaves as Kansas City's all-time leader in touchdowns (44). Greg Hill led the Chiefs with 550 yards, but he averaged only 3.5 yards a carry and wasn't re-signed



Andre Rison

NFL Ranking: *Offense 14, Defense 11*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	DENVER 19	KANSAS CITY 3
SEP. 8	**KANSAS CITY 28**	**OAKLAND 27**
SEP. 14	**KANSAS CITY 22**	**BUFFALO 16**
SEP. 21	**KANSAS CITY 35**	**CAROLINA 14**
SEP. 28	**KANSAS CITY 20**	**SEATTLE 17 (OT)**
OCT. 5	MIAMI 17	KANSAS CITY 14
OCT. 12	Bye	
OCT. 16	**KANSAS CITY 31**	**SAN DIEGO 3**
OCT. 26	**KANSAS CITY 28**	**ST. LOUIS 20**
NOV. 3	**KANSAS CITY 13**	**PITTSBURGH 10**
NOV. 9	JACKSONVILLE 24	KANSAS CITY 10
NOV. 16	**KANSAS CITY 24**	**DENVER 22**
NOV. 23	**KANSAS CITY 19**	**SEATTLE 14**
NOV. 30	**KANSAS CITY 44**	**SAN FRANCISCO 9**
DEC. 7	**KANSAS CITY 30**	**OAKLAND 0**
DEC. 14	**KANSAS CITY 29**	**SAN DIEGO 7**
DEC. 21	**KANSAS CITY 25**	**NEW ORLEANS 13**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**OAKLAND**	**8:20**	
SEP. 13	at Jacksonville	1:00	
SEP. 20	**SAN DIEGO**	**1:00**	
SEP. 27	at Philadelphia	1:00	
OCT. 4	**SEATTLE**	**8:20**	
OCT. 11	at New England	1:00	
OCT. 18	Bye		
OCT. 26	**PITTSBURGH**	**8:20**	**Monday**
NOV. 1	**NEW YORK JETS**	**4:05**	
NOV. 8	at Seattle	4:15	
NOV. 16	**DENVER**	**8:20**	**Monday**
NOV. 22	at San Diego	4:15	
NOV. 29	**ARIZONA**	**1:00**	
DEC. 6	at Denver	4 15	
DEC. 13	**DALLAS**	**4:15**	
DEC 20	at New York Giants	1:00	
DEC. 26	at Oakland	4:05	Saturday

Note All times are local

Kansas City *Chiefs*

AFC west

Grbac was injured for part of last year, but was healthy enough to complete 57% of his passes for 1,943 yards. Rich Gannon threw for 1,144 yards.

A healthy Grbac and a change in offensive philosophy should benefit the Chiefs. The special teams are solid with Tamarick Vanover returning punts and kickoffs. He averaged 25.7 yards on kickoffs and 10.9 yards on punts, and may be asked to play running back this year.

Placekicker Pete Stoyanovich was 12 of 12 inside the 40-yard line and connected 14 of 15 field goals from beyond 40 yards, including two of two from 50 yards out.

Defensively, the Chiefs are led by end Derrick Thomas. Kansas City was an active player in the off-season and signed tackle Chester McGlockton (Oakland Raiders) and end Leslie O'Neal (St. Louis Rams) to free agent deals. The Chiefs also traded interior lineman Vaughn Booker to Green Bay for nose-tackle Darius Holland.

"You take a guy like a Chester and myself and Derrick Thomas, a guy who can get to the passer and play the run—now all of a sudden, who are you going to double team," said O'Neal, who has 122.5 sacks during his 11-year career with the Rams and San Diego Chargers.

Throw in defensive end Dan Williams, who led the Chiefs with 10.5 sacks, and the Chiefs look very good upfront.

The secondary is also deep. James Hasty was signed to a new deal after making it to the Pro Bowl, along with fellow corner Dale Carter, but Mark McMillan played very well and led the Chiefs with eight interceptions, three of which he returned for touchdowns.

All in all, this could be Schottenheimer's super year, but there's still some horsepower in the AFC West to deal with before that happens.

Derrick Thomas

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Kansas City Chiefs 10-6*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 89 Andre Rison
82 Derrick Alexander
LT 69 Jeff Criswell
LG 79 Dave Szott
64 Ralph Tamm
C 61 Tim Grunhard
65 Jeff Smith
RG 68 Will Shields
64 Ralph Tamm
RT 67 Glenn Parker
TE 48 Ted Popson
88 Tony Gonzalez
FL 84 Joe Horn
QB 11 Elvis Grbac
12 Rich Gannon
HB 30 Donnell Bennett
FB 38 Kimble Anders

DEFENSE

LT 92 Dan Williams
90 Darius Holland
RT 91 C. McGlockton
71 Tom Barndt
RE 93 John Browning
92 Dan Williams
LLB 58 Derrick Thomas
77 Pellom McDaniels
ILB 56 Wayne Simmons
90 Terry Wooden
MLB 59 Donnie Edwards
RLB 50 Anthony Davis
90 Terry Wooden
LCB 34 Dale Carter
44 Darren Anderson
RCB 40 James Hasty
29 Mark McMillan
SS 25 Reggie Tongue
FS 21 Jerome Woods
25 Reggie Tongue

SPECIALISTS

P 5 Louie Aguiar
12 Rich Gannon
K 10 Pete Stoyanovich
5 Louie Aguiar
PR 87 Tamarick Vanover
83 Danan Hughes
KOR 87 Tamarick Vanover
83 Danan Hughes

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Victor Riley	OT	Auburn
3	Rashaan Shehee	RB	Washington
4	Greg Favors	LB	Mississippi State
5	Robert Williams	CB	North Carolina
6	Derrick Ransom	DT	Cincinnati
7	Eric Warfield	DB	Nebraska
7	Ernest Blackwell	RB	Missouri

AFC WEST

Oakland raiders

MEMORIES of John Madden, Jim Plunkett and Jack Tatum are distant and, if you look closely, even the logo is grimacing under that eye patch at a woeful 4-12 record that is certainly a blotch on the Oakland Raiders' once-proud tradition

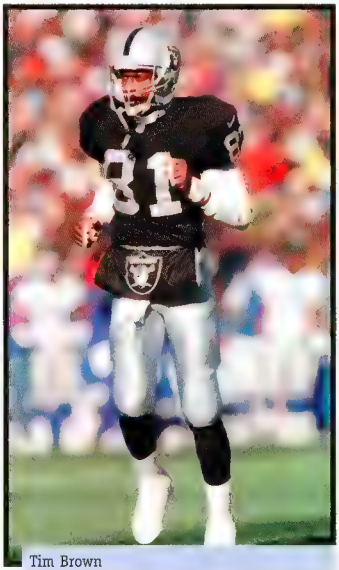
Oakland lost eight of its last nine games and of the four that they did win over the course of the season, only one was against a premier team, strangely enough the eventual Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos who lost to the Raiders 28-25 in Week Eight

The worst record since Al Davis took over the franchise in the early 1960s cost head coach Joe Bugel his job He'll be replaced by former Philadelphia Eagle offensive coordinator Jon Gruden, who becomes the fourth Oakland coach since 1994 The good news is that the Raiders don't have any place to go but up, at least fans in Oakland hope so

There was one positive aspect to the 4-12 record the fourth overall pick It allowed the Raiders to select last year's Heisman Trophy winner, cornerback Charles Woodson of the national collegiate champion Michigan Wolverines Woodson offers versatility on offense, defense and special teams and the Raiders may have another Deion Sanders on the roster He is one of three former Heisman winners in the Oakland lineup

Woodson is expected to concentrate on defense early in the year and that might be a good idea since the Raiders finished dead last in the NFL rankings last year He'll be joined at corner by newcomer Eric Allen, who comes over from the Saints Last year's starters, Albert Lewis and Terry McDaniel, are also available for a secondary that intercepted just 10 passes last season

Gone from the line is Pro Bowl defensive tackle Chester McGlockton, who moves over to the Kansas City Chiefs However, the Raiders believe that Darrell Russell can fit into that the spot vacated by McGlockton Linebacking, in particular, came under the gun last year About the only change this year is James Folston filling in for the departed Rob Fredrickson, who was traded to the Detroit Lions



Tim Brown

NFL Ranking: Offense 13, Defense 30

'97 Results

AUG.	31	TENNESSEE 24	OAKLAND 21 (OT)
SEP	8	KANSAS CITY 28	OAKLAND 27
SEP.	**14**	**OAKLAND 36**	**ATLANTA 31**
SEP.	21	N.Y. JETS 23	OAKLAND 22
SEP	28	OAKLAND 35	ST LOUIS 17
OCT.	5	SAN DIEGO 25	OAKLAND 10
OCT.	12	Bye	
OCT.	**19**	**OAKLAND 28**	**DENVER 25**
OCT.	26	SEATTLE 45	OAKLAND 34
NOV.	2	CAROLINA 38	OAKLAND 14
NOV	9	NEW ORLEANS 13	OAKLAND 10
NOV.	**16**	**OAKLAND 38**	**SAN DIEGO 13**
NOV.	24	DENVER 31	OAKLAND 3
NOV.	30	MIAMI 34	OAKLAND 16
DEC.	7	KANSAS CITY 30	OAKLAND 0
DEC.	14	SEATTLE 22	OAKLAND 21
DEC.	21	JACKSONVILLE 20	OAKLAND 9

'98 Schedule

SEP.	6	at Kansas City	8:20	
SEP.	**13**	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**4:15**	
SEP.	**20**	**DENVER**	**4:15**	
SEP.	27	at Dallas	1:00	
OCT.	4	at Arizona	4:05	
OCT.	**11**	**SAN DIEGO**	**4:15**	
OCT.	18	Bye		
OCT.	**25**	**CINCINNATI**	**4:15**	
NOV.	1	at Seattle	8:20	
NOV.	8	at Baltimore	1:00	
NOV.	**15**	**SEATTLE**	**4:05**	
NOV.	22	at Denver	4:15	
NOV.	**29**	**WASHINGTON**	**4:15**	
DEC.	6	MIAMI	4:15	
DEC	13	at Buffalo	1:00	
DEC	20	at San Diego	4:05	
DEC.	**26**	**KANSAS CITY**	**4:05**	**Saturday**

Note All times are local

Oakland *Raiders*

AFC west

So bad was the Oakland defense that some said it forced quarterback Jeff George to lead the AFC in passing with 3,917 yards because he was always playing catch-up. With 29 touchdown passes against just nine interceptions, George is being recognized for his skills, rather than controversy, and he appears ready to continue the improvement in 1998.

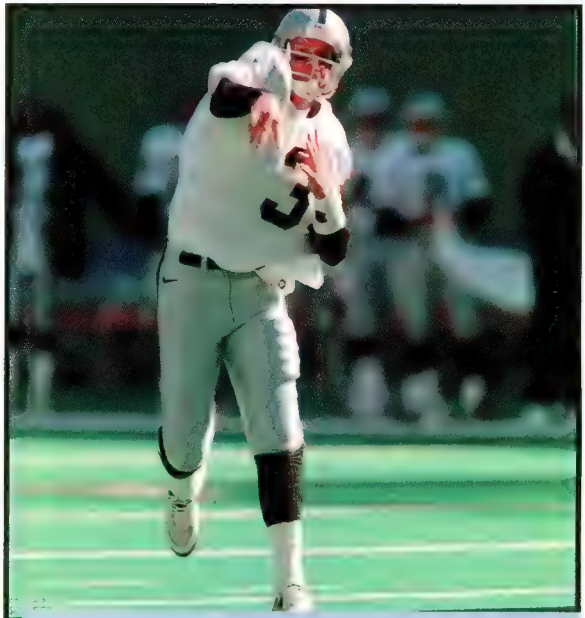
Offense isn't a problem in Oakland. On the other end of George's passes is another former Heisman winner in Tim Brown, who caught 104 passes for 1,408 yards to lead all AFC receivers. Meanwhile, James Jett averaged 17.5 yards per catch and scored a dozen touchdowns, while tight end Rickey Dudley was good for 48 catches, 787 yards and a 16.4-yard average, with seven touchdowns. With Brown becoming one of the all-time great Raider receivers, George has no shortage of targets or options.

The ground game is capably handled by Napoleon Kaufman, who rushed for 1,294 yards when the ball wasn't in the air. That number might be bigger if the Raiders weren't forced to go to the pass so often. It was vintage Kaufman in the win over Denver last year, as he broke loose for a 57-yarder on the first play from scrimmage, then added an 83-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter en route to a 227-yard performance.

After selecting Woodson, the Raiders bolstered the offensive line by picking the much-heralded Mo Collins.

While Desmond Howard, the third Heisman Trophy winner in the Oakland lineup, came over to jazz up the return teams after winning Super Bowl MVP honors with Green Bay, his numbers were disappointing. He does, however, have the potential to bounce back.

Potential is the key word and that will need to transform into reality, as the Raiders look to restore a little luster to a proud Oakland tradition.



Jeff George

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Oakland Raiders 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 82 James Jett
84 Kenny Shedd
LT 77 Pat Harlow
68 Rick Cunningham
LG 76 Steve Wisniewski
68 Rick Cunningham
C 63 Barret Robbins
66 Curtis Whitley
RG 63 Barret Robbins
68 Rick Cunningham
RT 72 Lincoln Kennedy
68 Rick Cunningham
TE 83 Ricky Dudley
86 Derek Brown
WR 81 Tim Brown
80 Desmond Howard
QB 3 Jeff George
12 Donald Hollas
RB 26 N. Kaufman
RB 22 Harvey Williams
31 Chad Levitt

DEFENSE

LE 96 Darrell Russell
DT 67 Russell Maryland
98 Kevin Johnson
DE 94 Anthony Smith
51 Lance Johnstone
OLB 55 James Folston
87 John Henry Mills
MLB 54 Greg Biekert
55 James Folston
OLB 55 James Folston
57 Rob Holmberg
CB 36 Terry McDaniel
20 Perry Carter
SS 37 James Trapp
43 Lorenzo Lynch
FS 42 Eric Turner
33 Eddie Anderson

SPECIALISTS

P 2 Leo Araguz
5 Cole Ford
PK 5 Cole Ford
2 Leo Araguz
PR 80 Desmond Howard
88 Olanda Truitt
KOR 80 Desmond Howard
45 Tim Hall

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Charles Woodson	CB	Michigan
1	Mo Collins	OT	Florida
3	Jon Ritchie	FB	Stanford
4	Gennaro DiNapoli	C/G	Virginia Tech
5	Jeremy Brigham	TE	Washington
5	Travian Smith	LB	Oklahoma
7	Vince Amey	DE	Arizona State
7	David Sanders	DE	Arkansas

AFC WEST

San Diego chargers

WHILE the acquisition of quarterback Ryan Leaf is hoped to have short term benefits, the choice was clearly made with an eye on the future.

The potential of Leaf is difficult to ignore and doesn't come around every year, so general manager Bobby Beathard reacted, sending receiver/return specialist Eric Metcalf, linebacker Patrick Sapp, the Chargers' first and second round picks in 1998 and a first round choice next year to Arizona for the Cardinals' first pick (No. 2 overall) this year.

Listed at 6-foot-5 and 254 pounds, rumor has Leaf going over the 260-pound mark. He may look like a linebacker, but he's mobile, accurate and strong-armed. "It was a dream season," says Leaf. "Our goal was to get to the Rose Bowl and we were fortunate enough to get in that situation."

The march to the Rose Bowl was a coming-out party for Leaf, but despite the positive response to his talents, he does expect a challenge in the pros. "The main thing is the speed. You've got the best of the best in the NFL. Very simply, you have smaller windows of opportunity in the NFL."

With Tennessee's Peyton Manning going first overall to the Indianapolis Colts, Leaf is eventually expected to fill the shoes of veteran quarterback Stan Humphries, who finally succumbed to a series of concussions and announced his retirement during the off-season. The courageous Humphries quarterbacked the Chargers to a Super Bowl appearance three years ago. The Chargers also said goodbye to Jim Everett, leaving Craig Whelihan at the controls.

After surrendering 15 sacks and ranking 28th in rushing offense and overall offense, one would wonder why Leaf would be eager to join the Chargers, but he is expressing his desire to be in Super Bowl parades through downtown San Diego over the next 10 to 15 years.

For now, the Chargers will concentrate on improving their 4-12 record of last year. Coach Kevin Gilbride is known as an offensive innovator.

To take the pressure off Leaf, the Chargers brought back run-

Charlie Jones

NFL Ranking: *Offense 28, Defense 21*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	NEW ENGLAND 41	SAN DIEGO 7
SEP. 7	**SAN DIEGO 20**	**NEW ORLEANS 6**
SEP. 14	CAROLINA 26	SAN DIEGO 7
SEP. 21	SEATTLE 26	SAN DIEGO 22
SEP. 28	**SAN DIEGO 21**	**BALTIMORE 17**
OCT. 5	**SAN DIEGO 25**	**OAKLAND 10**
OCT. 12	Bye	
OCT. 16	KANSAS CITY 31	SAN DIEGO 3
OCT. 26	**SAN DIEGO 35**	**INDIANAPOLIS 19**
NOV. 2	CINCINNATI 38	SAN DIEGO 31
NOV. 9	SEATTLE 37	SAN DIEGO 31
NOV. 16	OAKLAND 38	SAN DIEGO 13
NOV. 23	SAN FRANCISCO 17	SAN DIEGO 10
NOV. 30	DENVER 38	SAN DIEGO 28
DEC. 7	ATLANTA 14	SAN DIEGO 3
DEC. 14	KANSAS CITY 29	SAN DIEGO 7
DEC. 21	DENVER 38	SAN DIEGO 3

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**BUFFALO**	**4:15**
SEP. 13	at Tennessee	1:00
SEP. 20	at Kansas City	1:00
SEP. 27	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**4:15**
OCT. 4	at Indianapolis	1:00
OCT. 11	at Oakland	4:15
OCT. 18	**PHILADELPHIA**	**4:15**
OCT. 25	**SEATTLE**	**4:15**
NOV. 1	Bye	
NOV. 8	at Denver	4:15
NOV. 15	**BALTIMORE**	**4:05**
NOV. 22	**KANSAS CITY**	**4:15**
NOV. 29	**DENVER**	**8:20**
DEC. 6	at Washington	1:00
DEC. 13	at Seattle	4:05
DEC. 20	**OAKLAND**	**4:05**
DEC. 27	at Arizona	4:15

Note: All times are local

San Diego *Chargers*

AFC west

ning back Natrone Means from the Jacksonville Jaguars Means played a big role in the Chargers' march to the Super Bowl a few years back, but suffered an ankle injury last year

San Diego's beleaguered offensive line underwent a much-needed upgrade as longtime Pittsburgh Steeler offensive lineman John Jackson was signed as a free agent. The Chargers also doled out free agent money to former Green Bay Packer Aaron Taylor and ex-Atlanta Falcon Roman Fortin. Beathard also brought in a couple of coaches with NFL experience in June Jones and Joe Bugel

"When you look at what Bobby Beathard is doing, he wants to turn it around quickly, which excites me," says Fortin "You see a commitment there in terms of going after the second pick to make sure they have one of the top quarterbacks"

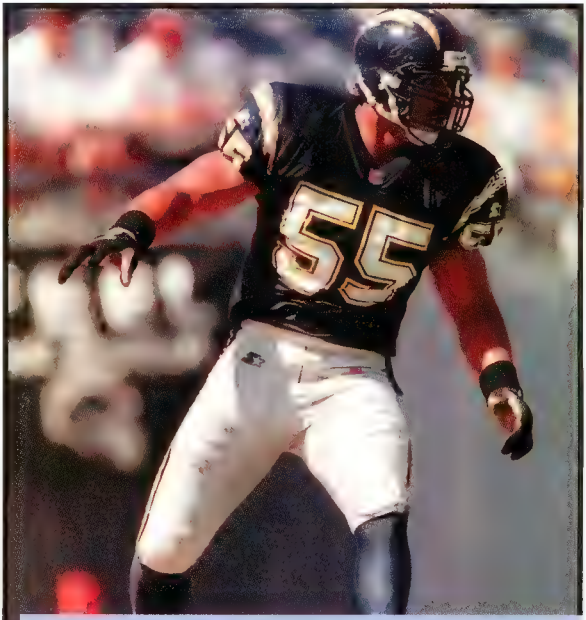
Of the departed players in the Leaf trade, San Diego may miss Metcalf the most, as he offered the offensively-challenged Chargers instant field position and returned three punts for touchdowns

Linebacker Junior Seau is still the star of the defense, after leading the team with seven sacks. He also tied for the club lead in interceptions with two, which underscores how soft the rest of the defense was last year

San Diego was outscored 425-266 last year and the defense allowed an average of 327 9 yards per game

Even with the arrival of a new quarterback, new coaches and free agent acquisitions, it appears that it will take a while before the Chargers move into contention, with teams such as the defending Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos and the Kansas City Chiefs occupying the AFC West, along with the Chargers

In other words, the Chargers won't be turning over a new .eaf just yet



Junior Seau

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *San Diego Chargers 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 80 Bryan Still
84 Ray Crittenden
LT 70 Vaughn Parker
73 Aaron Taylor
LG 68 Joe Cocozzo
65 Troy Sienkiewicz
C 63 Raleigh McKenzie
60 Greg Engel
RG 65 Troy Sienkiewicz
69 Ben Bordelon
RT 75 Tony Berti
69 Ben Bordelon
TE 89 Frank Hartley
85 John Burke
WR 82 Charlie Jones
85 Latario Rachal
QB 5 Craig Whelihan
16 Ryan Leaf
RB 43 Kenny Bynum
FB 20 Natrone Means
32 Robert Chancey

DEFENSE

LE 95 William Fuller
99 Raylee Johnson
LT 97 John Parrella
96 Norman Hand
RT 91 Chris Mimms
96 Norman Hand
RE 90 Marco Coleman
99 Raylee Johnson
OLB 58 Lewis Bush
51 Gerald Dixon
ILB 55 Junior Seau
59 Toran James
ILB 58 Lewis Bush
52 James Burgess
LCB 27 Michael Swift
22 Donan Brew
RCB 29 Terrance Shaw
25 Paul Bradford
SS 37 Rodney Harrison
23 Gerome Williams
FS 20 Michael Dumas
23 Gerome Williams

SPECIALISTS

P 2 Darren Bennett
7 Greg Davis
K 2 Darren Bennett
KOR 43 Kenny Bynum
85 Latario Rachal
PR 85 Latario Rachal
82 Charlie Jones

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Ryan Leaf	QB	Washington State
2	Mikhael Ricks	WR	Stephen F Austin
5	Cedric Harden	DE	Florida A&M
6	Clifford Ivory	CB	Troy State
7	Jon Haskins	LB	Stanford
7	Kio Sanford	WR	Kentucky

AFC WEST

Seattle seahawks

IN a city by the sea, fans of the Seattle Seahawks are gazing at the Watters, hoping he's the guy who can take them to the promised land of the playoffs.

The signing of versatile free agent running back Ricky Watters from the Philadelphia Eagles offers hope to the Seahawks in their quest to improve upon the 8-8 record last year. Running, catching — Watters can do it all and his talents paid off in the form of Super Bowl success during his years with the San Francisco 49ers.

Last year, the Seahawks had Chris Warren, Lamar Smith and Steve Broussard to lug the ball and while they churned up the yardage as a group, there was no feature back. Smith is now with the New Orleans Saints, while Warren has moved on to the Dallas Cowboys. However, Broussard, who offers excellent back-up to Watters, is still in the lineup, as is fullback Mack Strong.

Watters wants the ball and will get it from the ageless Warren Moon, who stepped in for John Friesz last year after the latter fractured his thumb. Moon ended up passing for 3,678 yards and 25 touchdowns on a powerful Seattle offense. "I'm very excited to be playing with Warren," said Watters. "That's something I'm really going to cherish and have a lot of fun with. We're going to pose some big, big problems."

The entire offense will be causing problems again this year. One of Moon's favorite targets is Joey Galloway, who emerged as a big-play guy by catching 72 passes for 1,049 yards and 12 touchdowns. Watters, who played with the incomparable Jerry Rice in San Francisco, says he's impressed by Galloway's speed. James McKnight showed big-play capabilities last year and will be joined by Mike Pritchard in the three-man formation. The Hawks also have reliable Brian Blades to call on.

The Seahawks did their best to bolster the line for Moon, and Watters signing free agents Kevin Glover from the Detroit

Warren Moon

NFL Ranking: *Offense 3, Defense 8*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	N.Y. JETS 41	SEATTLE 3
SEP. 7	DENVER 35	SEATTLE 14
SEP. 14	**SEATTLE 31**	**INDIANAPOLIS 3**
SEP. 21	**SEATTLE 26**	**SAN DIEGO 22**
SEP. 28	KANSAS CITY 20	SEATTLE 17 (OT)
OCT. 5	**SEATTLE 16**	**TENNESSEE 13**
OCT. 12	Bye	
OCT. 19	**SEATTLE 17**	**ST LOUIS 9**
OCT. 26	**SEATTLE 45**	**OAKLAND 34**
NOV. 2	DENVER 30	SEATTLE 27
NOV. 9	**SEATTLE 37**	**SAN DIEGO 31**
NOV. 16	NEW ORLEANS 20	SEATTLE 17 (OT)
NOV. 23	KANSAS CITY 19	SEATTLE 14
NOV. 30	ATLANTA 24	SEATTLE 17
DEC. 7	BALTIMORE 31	SEATTLE 24
DEC. 14	**SEATTLE 22**	**OAKLAND 21**
DEC. 21	**SEATTLE 38**	**SAN FRANCISCO 9**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at Philadelphia	1:00
SEP. 13	**ARIZONA**	**4:15**
SEP. 20	**WASHINGTON**	**4:05**
SEP. 27	at Pittsburgh	4:05
OCT. 4	at Kansas City	8:20
OCT. 11	**DENVER**	**4:15**
OCT. 18	Bye	
OCT. 25	at San Diego	4:15
NOV. 1	**OAKLAND**	**8:20**
NOV. 8	**KANSAS CITY**	**4:15**
NOV. 15	at Oakland	4:05
NOV. 22	at Dallas	1:00
NOV. 29	**TENNESSEE**	**4:05**
DEC. 6	at New York Jets	1:00
DEC. 13	**SAN DIEGO**	**4:05**
DEC. 20	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**4:05**
DEC. 27	at Denver	4:15

Note: All times are local

Seattle *Seahawks*

AFC west

Lions, Brian Habib from the Denver Broncos and Chris Gray from the Chicago Bears. However, Seattle did lose guard Kevin Mawae to the New York Jets, but they retained Walter Jones and Pete Kendall, and are hoping this unit offers consistency, both this season and in the future. Former Pro Bowl player Howard Ballard, 35, is also available.

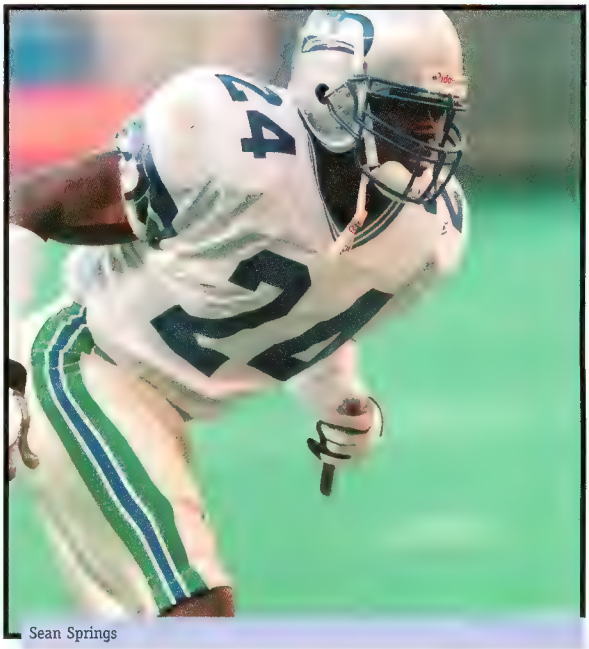
The defensive line contains some Pro Bowl material in tackle Cortez Kennedy, who returns after a broken leg last season, and Michael Sinclair. The promising Phillip Daniels and Sam Adams round out the D-line, along with Dan Saleaumua.

Chad Brown was a Seattle success after coming over from the Pittsburgh Steelers as he led the club in tackles and scored a couple of touchdowns on fumble returns. Like Watters, linebacker Darrin Smith moved over from Philadelphia and the Seahawks used their first draft pick to choose Anthony Simmons, heralded for his run defense. Dean Wells will man the middle.

A remake of the secondary last season paid dividends as Willie Williams and Bennie Blades fit in, along with Shawn Springs, while Darryl Williams tied for the AFC in interceptions with eight and made the Pro Bowl. Jay Bellamy and Fred Thomas are also around.

Perhaps, the biggest problem faced last year were the mistakes on special teams. The Seahawks dealt with that by hiring coach Pete Rodriguez and signing free agent punter Jeff Feagles from Arizona. Rodriguez will also be trying to improve the performance of both the return and coverage teams. If he accomplishes his goals, he should be named the team's most valuable player.

So, the Seahawks face another season of promise, but with teams such as the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos and the Kansas City Chiefs occupying the same division, it remains to be seen whether Seattle's post-season goal will be accomplished.



Sean Springs

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Seattle Seahawks 9-7*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	84 Joey Galloway	LE	70 Michael Sinclair	P 10 Jeff Feagles
	82 James McKnight		99 Matt LaBounty	K 2 Todd Peterson
LT	71 Walter Jones	LT	98 Sam Adams	KO 2 Todd Peterson
	75 Brian Habib		76 Riddick Parker	KR 31 Steve Broussard
LG	66 Pete Kendall	RT	97 Dan Saleaumua	81 Ronnie Harris
C	53 Kevin Glover		99 Matt LaBounty	PR 83 Tyree Davis
	62 Chris Gray	RE	93 Phillip Daniels	81 Ronnie Harris
RG	63 Frank Beede		99 Matt LaBounty	
RT	79 Grant Williams	LLB	54 Michael Barber	
TE	87 Carlester Crumpler		53 Eric Unverzagt	
	86 Christian Fauria	MLB	95 Dean Wells	
WR	85 Mike Pritchard		54 Michael Barber	
	18 Daryl Hobbs	RLB	94 Chad Brown	
QB	1 Warren Moon		56 Darrin Smith	
	7 Jon Kitna	LCB	22 Fred Thomas	
FB	38 Mack Strong		23 Dexter Seigler	
	88 Deems May	RCB	27 Willie Williams	
RB	32 Ricky Watters		23 Dexter Seigler	
	31 Steve Broussard	FS	33 Darryl Williams	
		SS	20 Jay Bellamy	
			26 Mark Collins	

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Anthony Simmons	LB	Clemson
2	Todd Weiner	OT	Kansas State
3	Ahman Green	RB	Nebraska
4	Deshone Myles	LB	Nevada-Reno
6	Carl Hansen	DE	Stanford
6	Bobby Shaw	WR	California
7	Jason McEndoo	C	Washington State

NFC EAST

Arizona cardinals

THE heat is on, more than usual in the Arizona desert, where the Cardinals are looking to raise their level of play along with the mercury in the thermometer

Veteran scouting director Bob Ferguson will oversee the Cardinals' football operations in 1998. Ferguson has long been renowned as one of the sharpest minds in football, and he enhanced that reputation on draft day when he made a trade with the San Diego Chargers, and turned down an offer by the Dallas Cowboys, who were coveting defensive prospect Andre Wadsworth

When the smoke had cleared, Ferguson had addressed Arizona's short-term and long-term needs

The trade with the Chargers allowed San Diego to pick standout quarterback prospect Ryan Leaf, but the Cardinals acquired the star quality of wide receiver Eric Metcalf, whose legendary father Terry Metcalf played for the franchise in St Louis San Diego also gave up linebacker Patrick Sapp, a 1998 second-round draft pick and a first round selection in next year's draft to the Cardinals

Ferguson then used Arizona's pick to take Wadsworth with the third overall choice, ignoring the Dallas temptations of additional draft picks It's easy to understand the Cowboys' interest because Wadsworth is a prime cut defensive lineman, raised under the watchful eye of college football legend Bobby Bowden at Florida State

There are those who believe that Arizona selected the best player in the draft While it's tempting to choose quarterbacks such as Peyton Manning (Indianapolis Colts) and Leaf, Wadsworth is the best defensive player of the draft, one who has been compared to Buffalo Bills' legend Bruce Smith, who was taken first overall in the 1983 draft

On paper, Wadsworth's presence gives the Cardinals the best front four in the NFL, joining Simeon Rice at the defensive end position, with Eric Swann and Mark Smith handling the interior of the line

The arrival of Wadsworth comes a year after the rookie debut of a player expected to be the anchor of the offense for the next 10 to 15 years — Arizona State sent quarterback Jake Plummer on to the Cardinals in last year's second round

He was nurtured slowly last year, but began to take control around the midway point of the season. He did enough good things to give diehard Cardinal fans hope for the future and for

Eric Swann

NFL Ranking: Offense 24, Defense 27

'97 Results

AUG	31	CINCINNATI 24	ARIZONA 21
SEP.	**7**	**ARIZONA 25**	**DALLAS 22 (OT)**
SEP	14	WASHINGTON 19	ARIZONA 13 (OT)
SEP.	21	Bye	
SEP.	28	TAMPA BAY 19	ARIZONA 18
OCT.	5	MINNESOTA 20	ARIZONA 19
OCT.	12	N Y. GIANTS 27	ARIZONA 13
OCT.	19	PHILADELPHIA 13	ARIZONA 10 (OT)
OCT.	26	TENNESSEE 41	ARIZONA 14 (OT)
NOV.	**2**	**ARIZONA 31**	**PHILADELPHIA 21**
NOV.	9	DALLAS 24	ARIZONA 6
NOV.	16	N.Y. GIANTS 19	ARIZONA 10
NOV.	**23**	**ARIZONA 16**	**BALTIMORE 13**
NOV.	30	PITTSBURGH 26	ARIZONA 20 (OT)
DEC.	7	WASHINGTON 38	ARIZONA 28
DEC.	14	NEW ORLEANS 27	ARIZONA 10
DEC.	**21**	**ARIZONA 29**	**ATLANTA 26**

'98 Schedule

SEP	6	at Dallas	4.05
SEP	13	at Seattle	4:15
SEP.	**20**	**PHILADELPHIA**	**8:20**
SEP.	27	at St. Louis	1:00
OCT.	**4**	**OAKLAND**	**4:05**
OCT.	**11**	**CHICAGO**	**4:05**
OCT	18	at New York Giants	1:00
OCT.	25	Bye	
NOV.	1	at Detroit	1:00
NOV.	**8**	**WASHINGTON**	**4:05**
NOV.	**15**	**DALLAS**	**4:15**
NOV	22	at Washington	1:00
NOV	29	at Kansas City	1:00
DEC.	**6**	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**4:05**
DEC.	13	at Philadelphia	1:00
DEC.	**20**	**NEW ORLEANS**	**4:15**
DEC.	**27**	**SAN DIEGO**	**4:15**

Note All times are loca

Arizona *Cardinals*

NFC east

this season. In his rookie year, Plummer threw as many touchdowns as he did interceptions (15) and wound up with 2,203 passing yards. Despite being sacked often, he never quit. That's what made him so impressive at Arizona State.

Plummer has some high-powered weapons to use. The Cardinals featured the third-best passing offense in the NFL last season. Rob Moore led all NFC pass catchers with 1,584 yards on 97 catches with eight touchdowns. Frank Sanders caught 75 for 1,017 yards and the Cardinals rewarded his first 1,000-yard season with a contract extension.

When Curtis Martin left the New England Patriots for the New York Jets, the Cardinals checked out Adrian Murrell, a two-time 1,000-yard rusher who came to Arizona for draft picks. Murrell is also a receiving threat who is expected to replace Leeland McElroy in the backfield.

New offensive coordinator Marc Trestman has his players excited about the attack style offense he installed for people such as the all-purpose Larry Centers, who chalked up 276 rushing yards and 409 receiving yards.

The offense sits well with Plummer, whose abilities to throw downfield and run the ball makes him an ideal candidate to run such an attack. Just in case, the Cardinals went out and signed Dave Brown, formerly of the New York Giants. Brown was the starter until early last October, when he was injured. Stoney Case is his main rival for the job as backup.

Arizona's offense is good enough to improve on last year's 4-12 record and the defensive line should also be in the attack mode with the arrival of Wadsworth. The schedule should also be the Cardinals' friend as they look to improve their 1997 record.

There could be a hot time in the desert this year and it has nothing to do with the weather report.

Jake Plummer

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Arizona Cardinals 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	85 Rob Moore	LE	96 Brad Ottis	K	6 Joe Nedney
	89 Fred Brock		90 A. Wadsworth	P	6 Joe Nedney
LT	75 Lomas Brown	LT	98 Eric Swann	KR	21 Eric Metcalf
	71 Tom Guynes		93 Mark Smith	PR	21 Eric Metcalf
LG	73 Matt Joyce	RT	93 Mark Smith		
	74 Rob Selby		94 Bernard Wilson		
C	54 Aaron Graham	RE	97 Simeon Rice		
	62 Mike Devlin		96 Brad Ottis		
RG	60 Anthony Redmon	LLB	95 Jamir Miller		
	74 Rob Selby		50 Tony McCombs		
RT	64 James Dexter	MLB	56 Patrick Sapp		
	71 Tom Guynes		57 Ronald McKinnon		
TE	87 J. McWilliams	RLB	57 Ronald McKinnon		
	80 Pat Carter		56 Terry Irving		
WR	81 Frank Sanders	LCB	35 Aeneas Williams		
	21 Eric Metcalf		29 Ty Howard		
QB	16 Jake Plummer	RCB	22 Tom Knight		
	15 Stoney Case		44 J.J. McCleskey		
FB	37 Larry Centers	SS	28 Tommy Bennett		
	45 Cedric Smith		43 Matt Darby		
RB	24 Mario Bates	FS	42 Kwamie Lassiter		
	29 Adrian Murrell		38 Kenny Harris		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Andre Wadsworth	DE	Florida State
2	Corey Chavous	S	Vanderbilt
2	Anthony Clement	OT	SW Louisiana
4	Michael Pittman	RB	Fresno State
5	Terry Hardy	TE	Southern Miss
6	Zack Walz	LB	Dartmouth
7	Phil Savoy	WR	Colorado
7	George Cousins	DE	Florida A&M
7	Pat Tillman	S	Arizona State
7	Ron Janes	RB	Missouri

NFC EAST

Dallas Cowboys

CHANGE Gailey goes where few have gone before. As a matter of fact, the only other head coaches in the history of the Dallas Cowboys are Tom Landry, Jimmy Johnson and Barry Switzer, and each have led the Cowboys to a Super Bowl championship

Three of those have come since 1989, when Jerry Jones bought the team and replaced Landry with Johnson. Johnson then won a couple of Super Bowls, moved on to the Miami Dolphins, to give way to Switzer, who won another championship for the team

Indeed, the Cowboys have been a storied team over the years, but more recently, the stories have revolved around off-field problems, as opposed to gridiron glory

Change was necessary and Gailey brings to the organization the reputation of being a well-organized individual, who helped the Pittsburgh Steelers become one of the NFL's better teams Gailey has coached with the likes of Bill Cowher, Dan Reeves and Mike Shanahan

While defense isn't a problem, after ranking second overall in that department last year, Gailey inherits a team whose biggest need is offense, as strange as that may sound with a team that features quarterback Troy Aikman and running back Emmitt Smith The Cowboys ranked 20th in offense last year and they struggled inside their opponents' 20 yard line

One of Gailey's first initiatives was to change the Cowboys from a run-dominated team into a more diverse unit Under Gailey, the Cowboys will feature the shotgun, something that Aikman admits he'll have to get used to, but will still enjoy the challenge

Aikman, considered one of the NFL's most precise passers, had a difficult 1997 season. With the running game struggling, he was forced to throw an NFC-high 518 passes He threw for 19 touchdowns, but also gave up a dozen interceptions

Emmitt Smith, one of the game's best short-yardage runners, scored just four touchdowns Dallas' inability to put the ball into the end zone meant that Richie Cunningham was forced to boot an NFL-high 37 field goals and was good on 34 of them as he led the NFC with 126 points

Emmitt Smith

NFL Ranking: *Offense 20, Defense 2*

'97 Results

AUG	**31**	**DALLAS 37**	**PITTSBURGH 7**
SEP.	7	ARIZONA 25	DALLAS 22 (OT)
SEP.	**15**	**DALLAS 21**	**PHILADELPHIA 20**
SEP.	21	Bye	
SEP.	**28**	**DALLAS 27**	**CHICAGO 3**
OCT.	5	N.Y. GIANTS 20	DALLAS 17
OCT.	13	WASHINGTON 21	DALLAS 16
OCT.	**19**	**DALLAS 26**	**JACKSONVILLE 22**
OCT.	26	PHILADELPHIA 13	DALLAS 12
NOV.	2	SAN FRANCISCO 17	DALLAS 10
NOV.	**9**	**DALLAS 24**	**ARIZONA 6**
NOV.	**16**	**DALLAS 17**	**WASHINGTON 14**
NOV.	23	GREEN BAY 45	DALLAS 17
NOV.	27	TENNESSEE 27	DALLAS 14
DEC.	8	CAROLINA 23	DALLAS 13
DEC.	14	CINCINNATI 31	DALLAS 24
DEC	21	NY GIANTS 20	DALLAS 7

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**ARIZONA**	**4:05**	
SEP.	13	at Denver	4:15	
SEP.	21	at New York Giants	8:20	Monday
SEP.	**27**	**OAKLAND**	**1:00**	
OCT.	4	at Washington	1:00	
OCT.	**11**	**CAROLINA**	**1:00**	
OCT.	18	at Chicago	4:15	
OCT.	25	Bye		
NOV.	2	at Philadelphia	8:20	Monday
NOV.	**8**	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**1:00**	
NOV.	15	at Arizona	4:15	
NOV.	**22**	**SEATTLE**	**1:00**	
NOV.	**26**	**MINNESOTA**	**4:05**	**Thursday**
DEC.	6	at New Orleans	1:00	
DEC.	13	at Kansas City	4:15	
DEC.	**20**	**PHILADELPHIA**	**4:15**	
DEC.	**27**	**WASHINGTON**	**8:20**	

Note All times are loca

Dallas *Cowboys*

NFC east

The Cowboys finished their disappointing season by losing their last five games in a row to finish with a 6-10 record and end a streak of five consecutive NFC East titles. The Cowboys didn't make the playoffs for the first time since 1990.

Things got even scarier when doctors removed a malignant melanoma from Aikman's left shoulder. Fortunately for Aikman, it was diagnosed in its earliest stages. His health is critical for the Cowboys as they seek to return to their former position of glory.

Smith, who rushed for 1,074 yards last year, will get help in the backfield from Chris Warren, who left the Seattle Seahawks as their all-time rushing leader. Last year, he rushed for 847 yards and four touchdowns.

The Cowboys also hope their offensive line lightens up, and we're not talking about demeanor. Nate Newton (320 pounds), Erik Williams (328) and Larry Allen (325) are all part of one of the NFL's most dominant lines, but they also earned a reputation of being overweight. Newton went on a weight-loss program and, at one point, lost 100 pounds in the off-season. Veteran center Ray Donaldson will be replaced by three-year pro Clay Shiver (294).

Michael Irvin continues to be the Cowboys' top receiver, but Deion Sanders will see action at the wideout position on a consistent basis this season, to add to his all-round image. He's already known as one of the NFL's best cover corners. A glowing Neon Deion will mean more sparkling offense for the Cowboys.

Gailey would like to include Sanders in 10 to 15 offensive plays per game, but more importantly, he would like to see the Cowboys rebound from last year's poor season, not only by Dallas standards, but by anybody's standards.

Chan's the man this season, but he has a glorious—and colorful past—to deal with in his first year.

Troy Aikman

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Dallas Cowboys 9-7*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	83 Anthony Miller	LE	xx Greg Ellis	P	4 Toby Gowin
	87 Billy Davis		97 Kavika Pittman		3 Richie Cunningham
LT	73 Larry Allen	LT	95 Chad Hennings	K	3 Richie Cunningham
LG	61 Nate Newton		91 Darren Benson		4 Toby Gowin
C	50 Clay Shiver	RT	78 Leon Lett	KOR	34 Herschel Walker
	63 John Flannery		96 Antonio Anderson		31 Brock Marion
RG	66 Everett McIver	RE	98 Shante Carver	PR	23 Kevin Mathis
RT	79 Erik Williams	SLB	56 Randall Godfrey		80 Stepfret Williams
	66 Tony Hutson		57 Vinson Smith		
TE	89 David LaFleur	MLB	55 Fred Strickland		
	81 Scott Galbraith		57 Vinson Smith		
WR	88 Michael Irvin	WLB	52 Dexter Coakley		
	80 Stepfret Williams	LCB	26 Kevin Smith		
QB	8 Troy Aikman		35 Wendell Davis		
	17 Jason Garrett	RCB	23 Kevin Mathis		
FB	42 Chris Warren		30 Kenny Wheaton		
	34 Herschel Walker	FS	42 Charlie Williams		
RB	22 Emmitt Smith		27 Singor Mobley		
	20 Sherman Williams	SS	28 Darren Woodson		
			24 Omar Stoutmire		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Greg Ellis	DE	North Carolina
2	Flozell Adams	OT	Michigan State
4	Michael Myers	DT	Alabama
5	Darren Hambrick	LB	South Carolina
5	Oliver Ross	OT	Iowa State
6	Izell Reese	S	Alabama-Birmingham
7	Tarik Smith	RB	California
7	Antonio Fleming	G	Georgia
7	Rodrick Monroe	TE	Cincinnati

NFC EAST

New York giants

WHEN the dust cleared in the NFC East last season, it wasn't the Washington Redskins or Dallas Cowboys sitting atop the division standings, but rather the New York Giants, a team in its first season under head coach Jim Fassel, who was justifiably named NFL coach of the year

In posting their remarkable 10-5-1 record, the Giants became the first team ever in the NFC East to go undefeated during regular season play against division opponents. A year later and a year older, the Giants embark on a promising season

Whether they overachieved or capitalized on a favorable schedule remains to be seen, but the Giants were a contending team until a close 23-22 loss to the Minnesota Vikings ended the year in the NFC Wild Card Game The Giants were ahead by 16 points at halftime, but surrendered 10 points in the last 90 seconds of the game to drop the curtain on the season

Despite the disappointing finish, the Giants gained valuable playoff experience and are poised to make a run at the next level According to quarterback Danny Kanell, the goal is the Super Bowl, but this season won't be easy with a tough non-divisional schedule posing an obstacle

Kanell's competitive drive was contagious among his teammates last year and the Giants' offense became opportunistic, despite lacking a big-play performer. The Giants ranked third in NFC rushing, averaging 124 3 yards per game, but struggled in the passing game

On defense, it was the same story as New York was second in the conference against the run, but had trouble with pass defense

However, no team in the NFL was better at protecting the football and forcing turnovers than the Giants, who posted a shining plus-25 in the all-important takeaway-giveaway department

No longer enigmas, the Giants will be hard pressed to duplicate last year's record

They were the youngest team in the NFL in 1997, so there were no dramatic changes to the roster There were, however, moves to re-sign those who were instrumental in last year's success The Giants did, however, lose defensive tackle Ray Agnew through free agency to the St. Louis Rams Quarterback Dave Brown was lost to the Arizona Cardinals

Michael Strahan

NFL Ranking: Offense 27, Defense 18

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**N.Y. GIANTS 31**	**PHILADELPHIA 17**
SEP 7	JACKSONVILLE 40	N.Y. GIANTS 13
SEP 14	BALTIMORE 24	N Y GIANTS 23
SEP 21	ST LOUIS 13	N.Y. GIANTS 3
SEP. 28	**N.Y. GIANTS 14**	**NEW ORLEANS 9**
OCT. 5	**N.Y. GIANTS 20**	**DALLAS 17**
OCT. 12	**N.Y. GIANTS 27**	**ARIZONA 13**
OCT. 19	**N.Y. GIANTS 26**	**DETROIT 20 (OT)**
OCT. 26	**N.Y. GIANTS 29**	**CINCINNATI 27 (OT)**
NOV. 2	Bye	
NOV. 9	TENNESSEE 10	N.Y. GIANTS 6
NOV. 16	**N.Y. GIANTS 19**	**ARIZONA 10**
NOV. 23	**N.Y. GIANTS 7**	**WASHINGTON 7**
NOV. 30	TAMPA BAY 20	N.Y. GIANTS 8
DEC. 7	**N.Y. GIANTS 31**	**PHILADELPHIA 21**
DEC. 13	**N.Y. GIANTS 30**	**WASHINGTON 10**
DEC. 21	**N.Y. GIANTS 20**	**DALLAS 7**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**WASHINGTON**	**1:00**	
SEP 13	at Oakland	4:15	
SEP. 21	**DALLAS**	**8:20**	**Monday**
SEP 27	at San Diego	4:15	
OCT. 4	at Tampa Bay	4:15	
OCT. 11	**ATLANTA**	**8:20**	
OCT. 18	**ARIZONA**	**1:00**	
OCT. 25	Bye		
NOV 1	at Washington	1 00	
NOV. 8	at Dallas	1:00	
NOV. 15	**GREEN BAY**	**4:15**	
NOV. 22	**PHILADELPHIA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 30	at San Francisco	8.20	Monday
DEC. 6	at Arizona	4:05	
DEC. 13	**DENVER**	**1:00**	
DEC. 20	**KANSAS CITY**	**1:00**	
DEC. 27	at Philadelphia	4 05	

Note All times are local

New York *Giants*

NFC east

through free agency as well, but Kanell had clearly become the incumbent. This year, he'll be backed up by one-time Giant Kent Graham, who played in New York from 1992-94 and played under Fassel in Arizona.

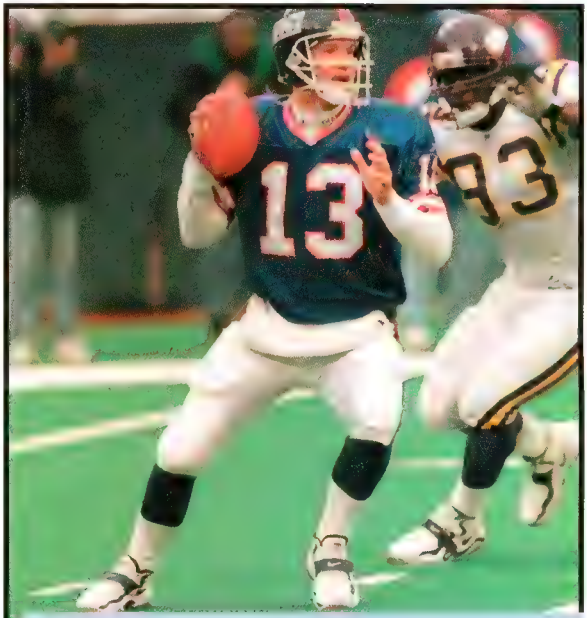
Rodney Hampton, the Giants' all-time leading rusher is gone, but New York will have several players who can inflict damage on the enemy. Free agent LeShon Johnson is on the roster, as is Gary Brown, who rushed for 945 yards last year with the San Diego Chargers. There's also Charles Way, who led the Giants last year with 658 yards. There is, however, concern with the passing game and Fassel is hoping one of Ike Hilliard, Amani Toomer or David Patten can come through as a big-play threat.

Another hope may be rookie receiver Joe Jurevicius who, at 6-foot-4 and 230 pounds, is said to be too big for defensive backs to cover and too fast for linebackers. He's being compared to Shannon Sharpe of the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos.

On defense, the Giants led the NFC with 27 interceptions last year and that group of larcenists gets a little thicker with the addition of rookie safety Shaun Williams who, at 6-foot-1, 211 pounds, hails from UCLA. Standing out in 1997 was Tito Wooten, who came through with a career-high five steals.

Defensive end Michael Strahan and linebacker Jessie Armstead are coming off Pro Bowl years. Armstead's 134 tackles broke Giant legend Lawrence Taylor's team record by one. Both Armstead and Strahan remain Giant defensive stalwarts, along with big-play defensive back Jason Sehorn.

All of these factors add up to another promising season for the Giants, even if their 1997 win-lose record isn't duplicated or bettered.



Danny Kanell

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *N.Y. Giants 10-6*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR	80 Chris Calloway
	89 Amani Toomer
LT	72 Roman Oben
	78 Greg Bishop
LG	78 Greg Bishop
	66 Jerry Reynolds
C	53 Lance Scott
	60 Bryan Stoltenberg
RG	65 Ron Stone
	73 Rob Zatechka
RT	74 Scott Gragg
	66 Jerry Reynolds
TE	87 Howard Cross
	85 Alfred Pupunu
WR	83 David Patten
QB	13 Danny Kanell
	11 Kent Graham
RB	28 Tyrone Wheatley
	21 Tiki Barber
FB	30 Charles Way
	33 Gary Brown

DEFENSE

LE	92 Michael Strahan
	79 Bernard Holsey
LT	97 Robert Harris
	99 Christian Peter
RT	75 Keith Hamilton
RE	79 Bernard Holsey
LLB	98 Jessie Armstead
	52 Scott Gaylon
MLB	90 Corey Widmer
	58 Doug Colman
RLB	57 Corey Miller
	55 Marcus Buckley
LCB	22 Phillippi Sparks
	41 Conrad Hamilton
RCB	31 Jason Sehorn
	44 Robert Massey
SS	20 Sam Garnes
	47 Rodney Young
FS	29 Tito Wooten
	43 Percy Ellsworth

SPECIALISTS

P	9 Brad Maynard
K	3 Brad Daluiso
PR	89 Amani Toomer
	80 Chris Calloway
KOR	33 Eric Pegram
	86 Kevin Alexander

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Shaun Williams	S	UCLA
2	Joe Jurevicius	WR	Penn State
3	Brian Alford	WR	Purdue
5	Toby Myles	OT	Jackson State
6	Todd Pollack	TE	Boston College
7	Ben Fricke	C	Houston

NFC EAST

Philadelphia eagles

THE Philadelphia Eagles once flew on the wings of Ty Detmer and Rodney Peete, but this year, look to third-year quarterback Bobby Hoying to wing the bal

Hoying took the starting spot late last season and will continue this year, with Peete in reserve and Detmer lost to the San Francisco 49ers The 6-foot-3, 225-pound Hoying saw action in seven games last year, completing 56.9 per cent of his passes for 1,573 yards The key number is the 11 touchdown passes he threw against just six interceptions

The Eagles are hoping they fly over the top in the NFC East after proving to be dead ducks last year with a 6-9-1 record, including a three-game losing streak at the end of the season The 6-foot-3, 225-pound Hoying adds that consistency will be the key to the Eagles making the post-season

Hoying will be the focus of attention this season, along with Charlie Garner, who backed up Ricky Watters for three years With Watters signing as a free agent with the Seattle Seahawks, Garner is now the featured back Like Watters, Garner is versatile, chalking up 547 on 116 rushes and catching 24 passes for 225 yards. A repeat season or better would go a long way in the Eagles' post-season goa

The offensive line was bolstered through the NFL draft, as the Eagles used their first round pick (11th overall) to select Tra Thomas, a huge left tackle, who stands 6-foot-7 and comes in at 350 pounds His pass-protection skills, strength and aggressive attitude make him a prime choice for both now and the future

Steve Everitt, in just his second year as the Eagles' starting center, is the Eagle's leader on the O line, which lost Lester Holmes to the Arizona Cardinals and Joe Panos to the Buffalo Bills via free agency However, the Eagles acquired free agent lineman Keith Sims, a nine-year veteran who had three Pro Bowl seasons with the Miami Dolphins

Assuming the line holds up, Hoying will have no shortage of options in the Philadelphia attack, which features receiver

Irving Fryar

NFL Ranking: Offense 5, Defense 13

'97 Results

AUG.	31	N.Y. GIANTS 31	PHILADELPHIA 17
SEP.	**7**	**PHILADELPHIA 10**	**GREEN BAY 9**
SEP.	15	DALLAS 21	PHILADELPHIA 20
SEP.	21	Bye	
SEP.	28	MINNESOTA 28	PHILADELPHIA 19
OCT.	**5**	**PHILADELPHIA 24**	**WASHINGTON 10**
OCT.	12	JACKSONVILLE 38	PHILADELPHIA 21
OCT.	**19**	**PHILADELPHIA 13**	**ARIZONA 10 (OT)**
OCT.	**26**	**PHILADELPHIA 13**	**DALLAS 12**
NOV.	2	ARIZONA 31	PHILADELPHIA 21
NOV.	10	SAN FRANCISCO 24	PHILADELPHIA 12
NOV.	16	BALTIMORE 10	PHILADELPHIA 10 (OT)
NOV.	**23**	**PHILADELPHIA 23**	**PITTSBURGH 20**
NOV.	**30**	**PHILADELPHIA 44**	**CINCINNATI 42**
DEC.	7	N.Y. GIANTS 31	PHILADELPHIA 21
DEC.	14	ATLANTA 20	PHILADELPHIA 17
DEC.	21	WASHINGTON 35	PHILADELPHIA 32

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**SEATTLE**	**1:00**	
SEP.	13	at Atlanta	1:00	
SEP.	20	at Arizona	8:20	
SEP.	**27**	**KANSAS CITY**	**1:00**	
OCT.	4	at Denver	4:15	
OCT.	**11**	**WASHINGTON**	**1:00**	
OCT.	18	at San Diego	4:15	
OCT.	25	Bye		
NOV.	**2**	**DALLAS**	**8:20**	**Monday**
NOV.	**8**	**DETROIT**	**1:00**	
NOV.	15	at Washington	1:00	
NOV.	22	at New York Giants	1:00	
NOV.	29	at Green Bay	4:15	
DEC.	**3**	**ST. LOUIS**	**8:20**	**Thursday**
DEC.	**13**	**ARIZONA**	**1:00**	
DEC.	20	at Dallas	4:15	
DEC.	**27**	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**4:05**	

Note All times are local

Philadelphia *Eagles*

NFC east

Irving Fryar, coming off one of his best years, after catching 86 passes for 1,316 yards and six touchdowns

The Eagles traded a sixth-round pick to the New York Jets for receiver Jeff Graham, who, at age 29, is entering the eighth year of a career that has also included stops with the Chicago Bears and Pittsburgh Steelers. During that career, he caught 331 passes for 4,886 yards and 17 touchdowns

Eagles coach Ray Rhodes likes the look of his defense this year, including the acquisition of tackle Bill Johnson from the St Louis Rams and end Hugh Douglas from the New York Jets

The 6-foot-2, 280-pound Douglas is entering his fourth NFL season after being a first-round pick (16th overall) in 1995 In 40 career games, Douglas has registered 22 sacks and 117 tackles. Last year, he rang up four sacks, 39 tackles and forced three fumbles

The 26-year-old Douglas has posted six multiple-sack games during his career and has a fumble-return touchdown to his credit. He kicked off his career with a rookie season that saw him set a Jets' rookie record with 10 sacks, which led to NFL defensive rookie of the year honors

With Douglas rushing the quarterback, Johnson is proficient at stopping the run and offers Rhodes some flexibility, with the likes of Jon Harris and Mike Mamula

Whether the Eagles can soar to new heights in the NFC East this season remains to be seen, but they'll have to get out of the gate fast, with the home opener against Watters and his new team, the Seattle Seahawks., The Eagles also have a tough test in the form of the last two Super Bowl champions During the 1998 season, Philadelphia faces both the Denver Broncos and Green Bay Packers on the road, which is by no means an easy schedule for anybody

Charlie Garner

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Philadelphia Eagles 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	80 Irving Fryar	LE	79 Greg Jefferson	P	4 Tom Hutton
	81 Mark Seay		90 Jon Harris		18 Chris Boniol
LT	71 Jermaine Mayberry	LT	78 Hollis Thomas	K	18 Chris Boniol
	76 Barrett Brooks		79 Bill Johnson		4 Tom Hutton
LG	69 George Hegamin	RT	98 Jimmie Jones	KR	22 Duce Staley
	65 Bubba Miller		97 Rhett Hall		28 Mel Gray
C	61 Steve Everitt	RE	99 Hugh Douglas	PR	28 Mel Gray
	65 Bubba Miller		59 Mike Mamula		84 Freddie Solomon
RG	73 Jerry Crafts	LLB	57 James Darling		
	69 Keith Simms		55 Ray Farmer		
RT	76 Barrett Brooks	MLB	50 James Willis		
	73 Jerry Crafts		57 James Darling		
TE	88 Jimmie Johnson	RLB	55 Ray Farmer		
	87 Jason Dunn		52 Mike Caldwell		
WR	82 Chris T Jones	LCB	23 Troy Vincent		
	83 Michael Timpson		43 Randy Kinder		
QB	7 Bobby Hoying	RCB	38 Charles Dimry		
	9 Rodney Peete		24 Tim McTyer		
FB	34 Kevin Turner	SS	36 Michael Zordich		
	22 Duce Staley		45 Matt Stevens		
RB	30 Charlie Garner	FS	20 Brian Dawkins		
	22 Duce Staley		45 Matt Stevens		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Tra Thomas	OT	Florida State
3	Jeremiah Trotter	LB	Stephen F Austin
3	Allen Rossum	CB	Notre Dame
4	Brandon Whiting	DT	California
4	Clarence Love	CB	Toledo
5	Ike Reese	LB	Michigan State
7	Chris Akins	DT	Texas
7	Melvin Thomas	OG	Colorado

989 Sports

NFC EAST

Washington redskins

WHEN Norv Turner was brought on to coach the Washington Redskins four years ago, his mandate was to make the playoffs.

They haven't done that yet, but last year's 8-7-1 record in the NFC East, combined with huge acquisitions on defense, may have the post-season closer than ever in 1998.

Pro Bowl linebacker Ken Harvey, who contributed 9.5 sacks last year, was re-signed and the 'Skins brought aboard defensive tackles Dana Stubblefield and Dan "Big Daddy" Wilkinson from the San Francisco 49ers and Cincinnati Bengals, respectively. These acquisitions were toasted around the NFL and the newcomers should provide a brand new dimension to the defense, along with Kenard Lang and Rich Owens in the 4-3 Redskins alignment.

"The 3-4 didn't fit my style," says the 6-foot-5, 313-pound Wilkinson of his days in Cincinnati. "Going back to a 4-3 defense and playing on a grass field was everything I could ask for. Teams are going to have to level things off with me and Dana, which gives us the opportunity for a lot of one-on-one situations."

Marvcus Patton and Derek Smith join Harvey in the linebacking corps and Washington's secondary boasts two of the NFL's best cover corners in Darrell Green and Cris Dishman. While Dishman led the team in interceptions with four, including one for a touchdown, teams are reluctant to challenge Green, who was eventually named to the Pro Bowl roster. Jesse Campbell will line up at strong safety, while Stanley Richard assumes the free safety position, after leading the team in tackles.

On offense, the Redskins will be looking for a stronger performance out of quarterback Gus Frerotte, who struggled throughout the year, which ended prematurely when he went

Michael Westbrook

NFL Ranking: Offense 16, Defense 16

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**WASHINGTON 24**	**CAROLINA 10**
SEP. 7	PITTSBURGH 14	WASHINGTON 13
SEP. 14	**WASHINGTON 19**	**ARIZONA 13 (OT)**
SEP. 21	Bye	
SEP. 28	**WASHINGTON 24**	**JACKSONVILLE 12**
OCT. 5	PHILADELPHIA 24	WASHINGTON 10
OCT. 13	**WASHINGTON 21**	**DALLAS 16**
OCT. 19	TENNESSEE 28	WASHINGTON 14
OCT. 26	BALTIMORE 20	WASHINGTON 17
NOV. 2	**WASHINGTON 31**	**CHICAGO 8**
NOV. 9	**WASHINGTON 30**	**DETROIT 7**
NOV. 16	DALLAS 17	WASHINGTON 14
NOV. 23	N.Y. GIANTS 7	WASHINGTON 7
NOV. 30	ST. LOUIS 23	WASHINGTON 20
DEC. 7	**WASHINGTON 38**	**ARIZONA 28**
DEC. 13	N.Y. GIANTS 30	WASHINGTON 10
DEC. 21	**WASHINGTON 35**	**PHILADELPHIA 32**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at New York Giants	1:00	
SEP. 14	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**8:20**	**Monday**
SEP. 20	at Seattle	4:05	
SEP. 27	**DENVER**	**1:00**	
OCT. 4	**DALLAS**	**1:00**	
OCT. 11	at Philadelphia	1:00	
OCT. 18	at Minnesota	1:00	
OCT. 25	Bye		
NOV. 1	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**1:00**	
NOV. 8	at Arizona	4:05	
NOV. 15	**PHILADELPHIA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 22	**ARIZONA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 29	at Oakland	4:15	
DEC. 6	**SAN DIEGO**	**1:00**	
DEC. 13	at Carolina	1:00	
DEC. 19	**TAMPA BAY**	**4:05**	**Saturday**
DEC. 27	at Dallas	8:20	

Note: All times are local

Washington *Redskins*

NFC east

down with a hip injury. He appears to be healed going into this season and Jeff Hostetler, who replaced Frerotte after the injury and got two wins out of it, will again back him up

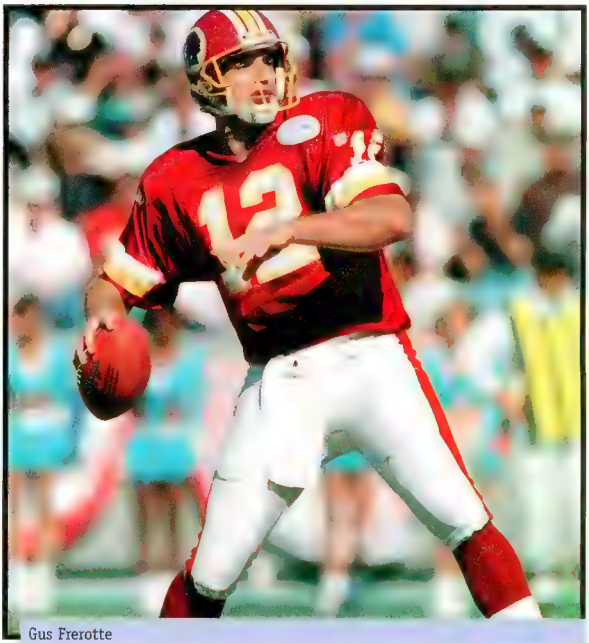
Frerotte wasn't the only Redskin player to suffer through injuries last year, as running back Terry Allen lived through thumb, ankle and knee problems, but somehow managed 724 yards Stephen Davis took advantage of Allen's absence and ran for 567 yards, while Larry Bowie emerged as the team's starting fullback

The receiving game has potential. The Redskins were hoping this might be the year that Michael Westbrook came through, but he missed a few games with a knee injury and finished with 34 catches His big-play potential is counted on this season Leslie Shepherd also had injury problems — elbow and wrist — and contributed 562 yards and five touchdowns The Redskins will also look at the promising James Thrash and Albert Connell at wideout, while tight end Jamie Asher will be Frerotte's escape hatch in tough situations The Redskins also used their first pick to select Oklahoma Sooner tight end Stephen Alexander. This is the year that at least some of that potential must be realized

Two key members of the Redskin offensive line were re-signed as guard Tre Johnson and tackle Joe Patton returned to the fold. Guard Brad Badger and tackle Shar Pourdanesh will anchor the right side with either Jeff Uhlenhake or Cory Raymer at center

On special teams, the Redskins have Pro Bowl punter Matt Turk back, while Brian Mitchell's versatility was rewarded with a new deal Last year, he contributed 2,081 combined net yards

The Redskins re-signed who they needed and brought in some valuable defensive additions, so they may be well on their way up the ladder in the NFC East



Gus Frerotte

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Washington Redskins 11-5*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	82 Michael Westbrook	LE	90 Kenard Lang	P	1 Matt Turk
	83 Albert Connell		92 Jamal Duff	K	13 Chris Jacke
LT	67 Shar Pourdanesh	LT	94 Dana Stubblefield	PR	30 Brian Mitchell
	68 Joe Patton		95 William Gaines		87 James Thrash
LG	68 Joe Patton	RT	99 Dan Wilkinson	KOR	30 Brian Mitchell
C	52 Cory Raymer		93 Marc Boutte		87 James Thrash
	55 Jeff Uhlenhake	RE	96 Rich Owens		
RG	75 Bob Dahl		97 Kelvin Kinney		
	74 Brad Badger	LLB	57 Ken Harvey		
RT	67 Shar Pourdanesh		54 Greg Jones		
TE	84 Jamie Asher	MLB	53 Marvcus Patton		
	88 James Jenkins		58 Patrise Alexander		
WR	85 Henry Ellard	RLB	50 Derek Smith		
	87 James Thrash		98 Twan Russel		
QB	12 Gus Frerotte	LCB	26 Cris Dishman		
	15 Jeff Hostetler		31 Darryl Pounds		
RB	21 Terry Allen	RCB	28 Darrell Green		
	48 Stephen Davis		32 Keith Thibodeaux		
FB	47 Larry Bowie	SS	37 Jesse Campbell		
	20 Marc Logan		22 Jamel Williams		
		FS	24 Stanley Richard		
			35 Leomont Evans		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
2	Stephen Alexander	TE	Oklahoma
3	Skip Hicks	RB	UCLA
4	Shawn Barber	LB	Richmond
5	Mark Fischer	C	Purdue
6	Patrick Palmer	WR	Northwest Louisiana
7	David Terrell	DB	Texas El-Paso
7	Antwaune Ponds	LB	Syracuse

NFC CENTRAL

Chicago bears

THE Chicago Bears aren't a team to follow the crowd in the NFC Central, a division that sent four of its five teams on to the playoffs last season, when one, the Green Bay Packers, made its second consecutive Super Bowl appearance last January in San Diego

While the Packers, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings were busy making the playoffs, the Bears were falling to a 4-12 mark, which included seven consecutive losses at the beginning of the regular season

Things didn't get much better in the off-season, when defensive lineman Alonzo Spellman went through well-publicized personal problems and a trade that sent Rashaan Salaam to the Miami Dolphins was nixed, when its was discovered the running back wasn't exactly healthy. In addition, the Bears said so long to belligerent, but talented, linebacker Bryan Cox

Things don't get much easier with the arrival of the 1998 regular season, in which the Bears not only have their own divisional opponents to deal with, but also teams such as the Pittsburgh Steelers and Jacksonville Jaguars Looking up at the rest of the division may become force of habit for the Bears, who look to occupy the basement once again in 1998

On the field, the Bears have as many question marks as concerns Quarterback Erik Kramer had his contract extended and will take most of the snaps this year In 1997, the Bears traded a first round pick prior to the season to obtain Rick Mirer from the Seattle Seahawks Mirer, who was taken second overall in the 1993 draft, didn't throw a single touchdown pass for Chicago, but was intercepted six times

Kramer, 33, is entering his 10th season and is coming off a season in which he completed 275 of 477 passes for 3,001 yards, 14 touchdowns and 14 interceptions in 13 starts

His favorite target was receiver Ricky Proehl, who led the Bears in receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns The bad news for Kramer and the Bears is that Proehl signed as a free agent with the St Louis Rams In his absence, Curtis Conway

Curtis Conway

NFL Ranking: Offense 17, Defense 12

'97 Results

SEP.	1	GREEN BAY 38	CHICAGO 24
SEP.	7	MINNESOTA 27	CHICAGO 24
SEP.	14	DETROIT 32	CHICAGO 7
SEP.	21	NEW ENGLAND 31	CHICAGO 3
SEP.	28	DALLAS 27	CHICAGO 3
OCT.	5	NEW ORLEANS 20	CHICAGO 17
OCT.	12	GREEN BAY 24	CHICAGO 23
OCT.	19	Bye	
OCT.	**26**	**CHICAGO 36**	**MIAMI 33**
NOV	2	WASHINGTON 31	CHICAGO 8
NOV.	9	MINNESOTA 29	CHICAGO 22
NOV.	16	N Y JETS 23	CHICAGO 15
NOV.	**23**	**CHICAGO 13**	**TAMPA BAY 7**
NOV.	27	DETROIT 55	CHICAGO 20
DEC.	**7**	**CHICAGO 20**	**BUFFALO 3**
DEC.	**14**	**CHICAGO 13**	**ST. LOUIS 10**
DEC	21	TAMPA BAY 31	CHICAGO 15

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**JACKSONVILLE**	**1:00**
SEP	13	at Pittsburgh	1:00
SEP.	20	at Tampa Bay	4:05
SEP.	**27**	**MINNESOTA**	**4:15**
OCT.	**4**	**DETROIT**	**1:00**
OCT.	11	at Arizona	4:05
OCT.	**18**	**DALLAS**	**4:15**
OCT.	25	at Tennessee	4:05
NOV.	1	Bye	
NOV.	**8**	**ST. LOUIS**	**1:00**
NOV.	15	at Detroit	8:20
NOV.	22	at Atlanta	1:00
NOV.	**29**	**TAMPA BAY**	**1:00**
DEC.	6	at Minnesota	8:20
DEC.	13	at Green Bay	1:00
DEC.	**20**	**BALTIMORE**	**1:00**
DEC.	**27**	**GREEN BAY**	**1:00**

Note All times are local

must elevate his game, after a season that saw him catch 30 passes for 476 yards and a touchdown. Chicago's other projected starter at wideout is Chris Penn, who caught 47 passes for 576 yards and three touchdowns.

A repeat year for tight end Ryan Wetnight, who was re-signed to a three-year deal, would go well this season. In 1997, Wetnight had a career year with 46 catches for 464 yards and a touchdown. His catches were third-best on the team and his yardage was fourth among Bears' receivers.

The Bears backfield will be congested this year with the presence of Salaam, first round draft pick (fifth overall) Curtis Enis and the free agent acquisition of former Green Bay Packer Edgar Bennett. After his Super Bowl win with the Packers, Bennett tore his Achilles tendon in training camp and missed the entire season, but he's versatile and almost fumble-free.

Besides losing Proehl, the Chicago offense also lost linemen Todd Burger (New York Jets) and Chris Gray (Seattle Seahawks), as well as fullback Tony Carter (New England Patriots) to free agency.

Defensively, the Bears re-signed tackle Jim Flanigan and linebacker Barry Minter. Flanigan and Minter led the Bears with six sacks apiece, while Minter posted a career-high 134 tackles. Safety John Mangum was also re-signed.

The Bears also lured free agent defensive lineman Mike Wells, who started all 16 games last year for the Detroit Lions.

Instead of tripping out of the gate this season, the Bears will have to sprint in order to keep the pace with the rest of the division. What's waiting for them at the end may be a stop sign as the rest of the Black and Blue Division gains entry into the post-season.

Erik Kramer

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: Chicago Bears 5-11
playoff bound: no

Depth Chart

OFFENSE
WR 86 Chris Penn
82 Fabien Bownes
LT 64 Andy Heck
74 Jimmy Herndon
LG 75 Todd Perry
67 Greg Huntington
C 58 Chris Villarrial
60 Casey Wiegman
RG 67 Greg Huntington
RT 71 James Williams
74 Jimmy Herndon
TE 85 Keith Jennings
89 Ryan Wetnight
WR 80 Curtis Conway
83 Eric Smith
QB 12 Erik Kramer
13 Rick Mirer
RB 32 Edgar Bennett
21 Darnell Autry
FB 49 Ty Hallock
36 Curtis Enis

DEFENSE
LE 95 Mark Thomas
LT 99 Jim Flanigan
93 Paul Grasmanis
RT 95 Mike Wells
98 Shawn Lee
RE 68 Carl Reeves
WLB 92 Barry Minter
53 Michael Lowery
MLB 57 Anthony Peterson
56 Ricardo McDonald
SLB 54 Ron Cox
55 Sean Harris
LCB 25 Tom Carter
23 Thomas Randolph
RCB 27 Walt Harris
24 Terry Cousin
SS 23 Marty Carter
36 Anthony Marshall
FS 26 John Mangum
36 Anthony Marshall

SPECIALISTS
K 1 Jeff Jaeger
16 Todd Sauerbrun
P 16 Todd Sauerbrun
1 Jeff Jaeger
PR 16 Todd Sauerbrun
KOR 82 Fabien Bownes
33 Tyrone Hughes

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Curtis Enis	RB	Penn State
2	Tony Parrish	S	Washington
3	Olin Kreutz	C	Washington
4	Alonzo Mayes	TE	Oklahoma State
6	Chris Draft	LB	Stanford
6	Pat Mannelly	OT	Duke
7	Chad Overhauser	OT	UCLA
7	Moses Moreno	QB	Colorado State

NFC CENTRAL

Detroit Lions

JUST as Barry Sanders moves up and down the field, so did the Detroit Lions as they zigzagged from one week to the next, with alternating wins and losses through the first half of last year. Yet, they still enjoyed the good fortune of making the playoffs with a 9-7 record

As a matter of fact, it took until Weeks 12 and 13 of the regular season for the Lions to get their first back-to-back wins, a 38-15 win over the Minnesota Vikings, followed up by 32-10 decision against the Indianapolis Colts. For the record, the Lions did extend that winning streak to three, with a 55-20 victory over the Chicago Bears

In the NFC Wild Card Game, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers took a 20-0 lead and were never threatened by the Lions in an eventual 20-10 victory

The closing weeks of the season saw triumph and tragedy hit the Lions The unpleasant sight of teammate Reggie Brown crumpled on the Silverdome carpet in last year's regular season finale against the New York Jets is one that isn't easily forgotten The injury ended the linebacker's career, but he continues to press on

The triumph is Barry Sanders' locomotion trip to the hall of fame Last year, the eventual MVP became just the third player to go over 2,000 rushing yards and was a consistent performer on an erratic team

A nine year veteran, he is the only player to rush for more than 1,000 yards each season. He's gone over the 1,500-yard mark in five consecutive seasons This year, he could become the NFL's all-time leading rusher, surpassing the 16,726 yards gained by former Chicago Bears' great Walter Payton

The Sanders locomotive stalled coming out of the station last year as he had just 53 yards after the first two weeks, but then he went on a remarkable run of 14 consecutive games with more than 100 yards in each. However, he's never played in the Super Bowl and that lofty goal appears to be off in the distance

The player who bore the brunt of the criticism after Detroit's

Barry Sanders

NFL Ranking: *Offense 2, Defense 14*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**DETROIT 28**	**ATLANTA 17**
SEP. 7	TAMPA BAY 24	DETROIT 17
SEP. 14	**DETROIT 32**	**CHICAGO 7**
SEP. 21	NEW ORLEANS 35	DETROIT 17
SEP. 28	**DETROIT 26**	**GREEN BAY 15**
OCT. 5	BUFFALO 22	DETROIT 13
OCT. 12	**DETROIT 27**	**TAMPA BAY 9**
OCT. 19	N.Y. GIANTS 26	DETROIT 20 (OT)
OCT. 26	Bye	
NOV. 2	GREEN BAY 20	DETROIT 10
NOV. 9	WASHINGTON 30	DETROIT 7
NOV. 16	**DETROIT 38**	**MINNESOTA 15**
NOV. 23	**DETROIT 32**	**INDIANAPOLIS 10**
NOV. 27	**DETROIT 55**	**CHICAGO 20**
DEC. 7	MIAMI 33	DETROIT 30
DEC. 14	**DETROIT 14**	**MINNESOTA 13**
DEC. 21	**DETROIT 13**	**N.Y. JETS 10**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at Green Bay	1:00	
SEP. 13	**CINCINNATI**	**1:00**	
SEP. 20	at Minnesota	1:00	
SEP. 28	**TAMPA BAY**	**8:20**	**Monday**
OCT. 4	at Chicago	1:00	
OCT. 11	Bye		
OCT. 15	**GREEN BAY**	**8:20**	**Thursday**
OCT. 25	**MINNESOTA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 1	**ARIZONA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 8	at Philadelphia	1:00	
NOV. 15	**CHICAGO**	**8:20**	
NOV. 22	at Tampa Bay	1:00	
NOV. 26	**PITTSBURGH**	**12:35**	**Thursday**
DEC. 6	at Jacksonville	1:00	
DEC. 14	at San Francisco	8:20	Monday
DEC. 20	**ATLANTA**	**1:00**	
DEC. 27	at Baltimore	1:00	

Note All times are local

playoff loss was quarterback Scott Mitchell who, like his team, is inconsistent. Mitchell completed just 10 of 25 passes for 78 yards against the Buccaneers and questions continue to hover about his future. With many thinking that any team that features Sanders should be a Super Bowl contender, a consistent Mitchell would go a long way

One of Sanders' best offensive linemen, Kevin Glover, signed with the Seattle Seahawks as a free agent, but former Buccaneer Jim Pyne is expected to fill the void. Tackle Ray Roberts was re-signed

The receiving corps is set with Herman Moore and Johnnie Morton. Moore offered another offensive dimension, catching 104 passes for 1,293 yards and eight touchdowns, while Morton grabbed 80 for 1,057 and six touchdowns before re-signing

On defense, end Robert Porcher established himself as a front-liner by leading the Lions with 12.5 sacks. Detroit also bolstered its line with the addition of free agent tackle Dan Owens from the Atlanta Falcons, but lost Mike Wells to the Chicago Bears

Linebacker Antonio London and defensive back Corey Raymond were released, but the Lions made a major acquisition in linebacker Allen Aldridge, who arrives from the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos The Lions also got linebacker Rob Fredrickson from the Oakland Raiders for draft picks

Once again, the Lions will get a kick out of Jason Hanson, who went 26 of 29 on field goal attempts last year for 117 points and made the Pro Bow

While Sanders may be the marquee player, his high level of play is expected. The key this season is Mitchell. Consistent play would go a long way for the Lions and, without it, the 1998 season could be a mirror image of last year

Robert Porcher

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: Detroit Lions 9-7
playoff bound: no

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	87 Johnnie Morton	LE	91 Robert Porcher	P	18 John Jett
	33 Glyn Milburn		67 Travis Kirschke	K	4 Jason Hanson
LT	72 Ray Roberts	NT	92 Marc Spindler	PR	33 Glyn Milburn
	70 Andre Johnson		93 Dan Owens		87 Johnnie Morton
LG	77 Mike Compton	UT	94 Luther Ellis	KR	33 Glyn Milburn
	62 Tony Semple	RE	97 Tracy Scroggins		87 Johnnie Morton
C	60 Jim Pyne		98 Marvin Thomas		
	66 Hessley Hempstead	SLB	58 George Jamison		
RG	64 Jeff Hartings		55 Allen Aldridge		
	66 Hessley Hempstead	MLB	57 Stephen Boyd		
RT	71 Larry Tharpe		54 Matt Russell		
	75 Tony Ramirez	WLB	59 Reggie Brown		
TE	86 David Sloan		52 Scott Kowalkowski		
	88 Walter Rasby	LCB	32 Bryant Westbrook		
WR	84 Herman Moore		35 Robert Bailey		
	80 Tommie Boyd	RCB	24 Kevin Abrams		
QB	19 Scott Mitchell		31 Corey Raymond		
	16 Chris Dittoe	SS	28 Ron Rice		
HB	20 Barry Sanders		42 Ryan Stewart		
	34 Ron Rivers	FS	27 Mark Carrier		
FB	44 Tommy Vardell		25 Greg Jeffries		
	30 Cory Schlesinger				

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Terry Fair	CB	Tennessee
2	Germane Crowell	WR	Virginia
2	Charlie Batch	QB	Eastern Michigan
6	Jamaal Alexander	S	Southern Mississippi
7	Chris Liwienski	OT	Indiana

NFC CENTRAL

Green Bay packers

AT one time, it appeared that this story would be talked about as carrying on the Green Bay tradition of back-to-back Super Bowls

But, the Denver Broncos ruined that angle against the Pack last January in San Diego, ending the NFC's Super Bowl dominance It was a long, cold winter in Green Bay, but as the Cheeseheads don their wedges for another shot at the big one, they can be assured that their team is still one of the premier units in the NFL

As long as quarterback Brett Favre stays healthy and head coach Mike Holmgren is on the sidelines, the Pack will be in the running for the Vince Lombardi Trophy, despite some familiar names moving elsewhere

It's commonplace for championship teams to lose players to free agency and the Packers are no exception. Gone from last year's roster are offensive guard Aaron Taylor (San Diego Chargers), cornerback Doug Evans (Carolina Panthers), punter Craig Hentrich (Tennessee Oilers), safety Eugene Robinson (Atlanta Falcons), defensive lineman Gabe Wilkins (San Francisco 49ers) and running back Edgar Bennett (Chicago Bears) Except for Bennett, who was injured, all of the above played in the Super Bowl last January. While those are big bites, the Pack has lost name players before and survived

The Pack also thought it had lost star defensive lineman Reggie White, but the venerable White unretired after announcing that he would be leaving the game White was back in the Pro Bowl for the 12th consecutive year, but the D-line that dominated in the Super Bowl win over the New England Patriots looked tired in the championship loss to Denver

So, it comes as no big surprise that Green Bay would use its first two draft picks to select a couple of defensive tackles, including Vonnie Holliday from North Carolina and Johnathon Brown of Tennessee While Holliday may rotate at end with White, remember the Pack also has veterans Santana Dotson and Gilbert Brown

Bret Favre

NFL Ranking: Offense 4, Defense 7

'97 Results

SEP.	**1**	**GREEN BAY 38**	**CHICAGO 24**
SEP.	7	PHILADELPHIA 10	GREEN BAY 9
SEP.	**14**	**GREEN BAY 23**	**MIAMI 18**
SEP.	**21**	**GREEN BAY 38**	**MINNESOTA 32**
SEP.	28	DETROIT 26	GREEN BAY 15
OCT.	**5**	**GREEN BAY 21**	**TAMPA BAY 16**
OCT.	**12**	**GREEN BAY 24**	**CHICAGO 23**
OCT.	19	Bye	
OCT.	**27**	**GREEN BAY 28**	**NEW ENGLAND 10**
NOV.	**2**	**GREEN BAY 20**	**DETROIT 10**
NOV.	**9**	**GREEN BAY 17**	**ST. LOUIS 7**
NOV.	16	INDIANAPOLIS 41	GREEN BAY 38
NOV.	**23**	**GREEN BAY 45**	**DALLAS 17**
DEC.	**1**	**GREEN BAY 27**	**MINNESOTA 11**
DEC.	**7**	**GREEN BAY 17**	**TAMPA BAY 6**
DEC.	**14**	**GREEN BAY 31**	**CAROLINA 10**
DEC.	**21**	**GREEN BAY 31**	**BUFFALO 21**

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**DETROIT**	**1:00**	
SEP.	**13**	**TAMPA BAY**	**1:00**	
SEP.	20	at Cincinnati	1:00	
SEP.	27	at Carolina	1:00	
OCT.	**5**	**MINNESOTA**	**8:20**	**Monday**
OCT.	11	Bye		
OCT.	15	at Detroit	8:20	Thursday
OCT.	**25**	**BALTIMORE**	**1:00**	
NOV.	**1**	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**4:15**	
NOV.	9	at Pittsburgh	8:20	Monday
NOV.	15	at New York Giants	4.15	
NOV	22	at Minnesota	1 00	
NOV.	**29**	**PHILADELPHIA**	**4:15**	
DEC.	7	at Tampa Bay	8:20	Monday
DEC.	**13**	**CHICAGO**	**1:00**	
DEC.	**20**	**TENNESSEE**	**1:00**	
DEC.	27	at Chicago	1:00	

Note All times are local

Green Bay *Packers*

NFC central

The Pack will miss the coverage of Evans but welcome the return of Craig Newsome, who missed most of last season with a knee injury. Tyrone Williams will start opposite Newsome, while second-year player Darren Sharper is coming off a solid rookie season in which he returned two interceptions for touchdowns. Meanwhile, Robinson's safety position is expected to be filled by veteran Pat Terrell, a free agent acquisition from the Carolina Panthers, and LeRoy Butler returns to strong safety after his second consecutive Pro Bowl appearance.

Veteran punter Sean Landeta replaces Hentrich.

The offense remains powerful, despite the loss of Bennett, who tore his Achilles tendon during pre-season, offering Dorsey Levens the opportunity to become the featured back. He responded by running 329 times for 1,435 yards and seven touchdowns and catching 54 passes for 370 yards and five touchdowns to earn his Pro Bowl spot.

Antonio Freeman and Robert Brooks formed a dangerous duo, each going over 1,000 yards and combining for 19 touchdowns. Derrick Mayes was also there when needed and tight end Mark Chmura earned a Pro Bowl selection with 38 catches for 417 yards and six touchdowns.

There's little more to be said about Favre that hasn't already been said about the three-time MVP. Perhaps, his 35 touchdown passes in 1997 say a lot about Green Bay's success the last few years. They also say a lot about the Packers' immediate future.

As impressive as his numbers and his physical skills are, it's his desire to succeed that stands out. His willingness to mix it up and run through a crowd have been consistent factors in the two consecutive trips to the Super Bowl.

Don't be surprised if they are factors in a similar ending this season.

Robert Brooks

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Green Bay Packers 12-4*
Super Bowl Champion: *yes*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE	DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	86 Antonio Freeman	LE 92 Reggie White	K	8 Ryan Longwell
	80 Derrick Mayes	97 Paul Frase	P	7 Sean Landeta
LT	78 Ross Verba	T 71 Santana Dotson		8 Ryan Longwell
	77 John Michels	99 Vaughn Booker	PR	87 Robert Brooks
LG	67 Jeff Dellenbach	NT 93 Gilbert Brown		80 Derrick Mayes
	62 Marco Rivera	94 Bob Kuberski	KR	86 Antonio Freeman
C	52 Frank Winters	RE 97 Paul Frase		24 Aaron Hayden
	67 Jeff Dellenbach	90 Darius Holland		
RG	63 Adam Timmerman	LLB 54 Seth Joyner		
	67 Jeff Dellenbach	56 Lamont Hollinquest		
RT	72 Earl Dotson	MLB 55 Bernardo Harris		
	77 John Michels	53 George Koonce		
TE	89 Mark Chmura	RLB 51 Brian Williams		
	83 Jeff Thomason	56 Lamont Hollinquest		
WR	87 Robert Brooks	LCB 37 Tyrone Williams		
	84 Bill Schroeder	28 Roderick Mullen		
QB	4 Brett Favre	RCB 42 Darren Sharper		
	18 Doug Pederson	SS 36 LeRoy Butler		
RB	25 Dorsey Levens	39 Mike Prior		
	24 Aaron Hayden	FS 40 Pat Terrell		
FB	30 William Henderson	42 Darren Sharper		
	32 Travis Jervey			

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Vonnie Holliday	DT	North Carolina
3	Jonathan Brown	DE	Tennessee
4	Roosevelt Blackmon	CB	Morris Brown (Ga.)
5	Corey Bradford	WR	Jackson State
6	Scott McGarrahan	S	New Mexico
6	Matt Hasselbeck	QB	Boston College
7	Ed Watson	RB	Purdue

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NFC CENTRAL

Minnesota Vikings

IT'S nearly unanimous that the Minnesota Vikings are one of the best offensive units in the NFL, beginning with quarterback Brad Johnson, featuring a solid offensive line, a proven running back in Robert Smith and a talented receiving corps

How do you defend them? That question will be asked again this year as the Vikings may not have shown their true purple colors yet Johnson was on his way to MVP status when he required neck surgery that ended his season after completing 275 of 452 passes for 3,036 yards and 20 touchdowns, with a dozen interceptions

Johnson's health is questionable again this year and as important as he may be, Minnesota does have Randall Cunningham waiting in the wings He helped snap a five-game losing streak in the final week of the season, throwing four touchdowns in a 39-28 Minnesota win over the Indianapolis Colts to clinch a playoff spot with a 9-7 record. The Vikings were one of four NFC Central teams to make the post-season

Cunningham also performed well in the Vikings' unlikely Wild Card win over the New York Giants Trailing by 16 points at halftime, Cunningham hit Jake Reed for a 30-yard touchdown with a minute and a half left in the game, then marched the offense 56 yards to put Minnesota within field goal range, where Eddie Murray took over and booted a 24-yarder in a 23-22 victory. The San Francisco 49ers, however, put a dent in the Viking's plans of going farther in the playoffs, posting a 38-22 win to bring the curtain down on Minnesota's season

Reed caught 68 passes for 1,138 yards and six touchdowns and is just one of many dangerous receivers that Johnson or Cunningham can go to this season Cris Carter scored 13 touchdowns, while compiling 1,069 yards on 89 catches Things got better at the NFL draft, when Marshall's Randy Moss was still available to be taken with Minnesota's 21st overall pick If Moss can leave his off-field problems behind him, the Minnesota receiving corps looks awesome Don't for get tight end Andrew Glover, whose shown he's capable of damage, too

John Randle

NFL Ranking: *Offense 8, Defense 29*

'97 Results

AUG.	**31**	**MINNESOTA 34**	**BUFFALO 13**
SEP.	**7**	**MINNESOTA 27**	**CHICAGO 24**
SEP.	14	TAMPA BAY 28	MINNESOTA 14
SEP	21	GREEN BAY 38	MINNESOTA 32
SEP.	**28**	**MINNESOTA 28**	**PHILADELPHIA 19**
OCT.	**5**	**MINNESOTA 20**	**ARIZONA 19**
OCT.	**12**	**MINNESOTA 21**	**CAROLINA 14**
OCT.	19	Bye	
OCT.	**26**	**MINNESOTA 10**	**TAMPA BAY 6**
NOV.	**2**	**MINNESOTA 23**	**NEW ENGLAND 18**
NOV.	**9**	**MINNESOTA 29**	**CHICAGO 22**
NOV.	16	DETROIT 38	MINNESOTA 15
NOV.	23	N.Y. JETS 23	MINNESOTA 21
DEC.	1	GREEN BAY 27	MINNESOTA 11
DEC.	7	SAN FRANCISCO 28	MINNESOTA 17
DEC	14	DETROIT 14	MINNESOTA 13
DEC.	**21**	**MINNESOTA 39**	**INDIANAPOLIS 28**

'98 Schedule

SEP.	**6**	**TAMPA BAY**	**1:00**	
SEP.	13	at St. Louis	1:00	
SEP.	**20**	**DETROIT**	**1:00**	
SEP.	27	at Chicago	4:15	
OCT.	5	at Green Bay	8:20	Monday
OCT	11	Bye		
OCT.	**18**	**WASHINGTON**	**1:00**	
OCT	25	at Detroit	1:00	
NOV.	1	at Tampa Bay	1:00	
NOV.	**8**	**NEW ORLEANS**	**1:00**	
NOV.	**15**	**CINCINNATI**	**1:00**	
NOV.	**22**	**GREEN BAY**	**1:00**	
NOV.	26	at Dallas	4:05	Thursday
DEC.	**6**	**CHICAGO**	**8:20**	
DEC.	13	at Baltimore	4:15	
DEC.	**20**	**JACKSONVILLE**	**8:20**	
DEC.	26	at Tennessee	12:35	Saturday

Note All times are local

Minnesota *Vikings*

NFC central

The Minnesota pass-catching crew is complemented by an equally-awesome running game that features a re-signed Robert Smith, who set a team record with 1,266 yards, third best in the NFC. Charles Evans is the fullback and, besides blocking, he's capable of coming out of the backfield to take a pass. Leroy Hoard and David Palmer can also be called on.

The offensive optimism doesn't end there as the offensive line features a couple of Pro Bowl players in tackle Todd Steussie and guard Randall McDaniel. Steussie was rewarded with a new contract, as was guard David Dixon. Center Jeff Christy is back after suffering a broken ankle last year, but he's capably backed up by Everett Lindsay, while Korey Stringer returns at tackle. Just like the backfield, the offensive line is strong.

In case the offense does stall, the Vikings signed reliable veteran kicker Gary Anderson. The special teams also feature David Palmer, whose 13.1-yard average on punt returns led the NFC.

Also re-signed by the Vikings was John Randle, who led the team in sacks with 15.5, but defense was a concern last year and, other than Randle's signing, there wasn't much done in the off-season to correct the problem. The Vikings lost Dewayne Washington to the Pittsburgh Steelers and Leonard Wheeler to the Carolina Panthers, but traded with the New England Patriots for Jimmy Hitchcock. The Vikings used their second pick in the draft to select defensive end/linebacker Kailee Wong from Stanford.

The offense will need to light some fireworks this season to stay ahead of the opposition in a division that boasts last year's Super Bowl finalist, the Green Bay Packers, not to mention Barry Sanders and the Detroit Lions, and the promising Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Robert Smith

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Minnesota Vikings 10-6*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE
WR	86 Jake Reed
	89 Mat. Hatchette
LT	73 Todd Steussie
	79 Eric Moss
LG	64 Randall McDaniel
	74 Orlando Bobo
C	69 LeShun Daniels
	61 Everett Lindsay
RG	71 David Dixon
	74 Orlando Bobo
RT	77 Korey Stringer
	79 Eric Moss
TE	82 Andrew Glover
	85 Greg DeLong
WR	80 Cris Carter
	81 Chris Walsh
QB	14 Brad Johnson
	7 R. Cunningham
RB	26 Robert Smith
	44 Leroy Hoard
FB	29 Charles Evans
	33 Harold Morrow

	DEFENSE
LE	99 Shawn Colinet
	92 Duane Clemons
NT	96 Jerry Ball
	72 Jason Fisk
UT	94 Tony Williams
	95 Fernando Smith
RE	93 John Randle
	90 Derrick Alexander
SLB	59 Dixon Edwards
	55 Ron George
MLB	58 Ed McDaniel
	50 Jeff Brady
WLB	57 Dwayne Rudd
	56 Pete Bercich
LCB	27 Corey Fuller
	31 Duane Butler
RCB	31 Jimmy Hitchcock
	24 Larry Brown
SS	24 Robert Griffith
	43 Greg Briggs
FS	23 Torrian Gray
	42 Orlando Thomas

	SPECIALISTS
K	1 Gary Anderson
	17 Mitch Berger
P	17 Mitch Berger
	7 R. Cunningham
PR	22 David Palmer
	81 Chris Walsh
KOR	22 David Palmer
	21 Moe Williams

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Randy Moss	WR	Marshall
2	Kailee Wong	LB/DE	Stanford
3	Ramos McDonald	CB	New Mexico
4	Kivuusama Mays	LB	North Carolina
5	Kerry Cooks	S	Iowa
6	Matt Birk	OT	Harvard
7	Chester Burnett	LB	Arizona
7	Tony Darden	CB	Texas Tech

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NFC CENTRAL

Tampa Bay buccaneers

THERE was a time, not so long ago, when anything said about the Tampa Bay Buccaneers would be followed by a punchline.

But the Bucs got some punch of their own and fought all the way to second place in the tough Black and Blue Division. With a 10-6 record in NFC Central standings, Tampa Bay proved they belonged in post-season, shutting down Barry Sanders and the Detroit Lions 20-10 in the Wild Card Game, before dropping the curtain on a successful season with a 21-7 loss to the Green Bay Packers.

The 10-6 record equaled the Buccaneers' previous best. The trip to the playoffs was their first since 1982 and the win over Detroit was the first for the franchise since 1979. Tampa Bay is a bright light in the NFC and it's not because of gaudy orange uniforms anymore.

Yes, there's even talk of a Super Bowl down south.

Head coach Tony Dungy, who earned a contract extension, took the team on a wild ride last year as the Buccaneers won their first five games, before losing 21-16 to the Packers in Week Six.

Quarterback Trent Dilfer came into his own in 1997, completing 217 of his 386 passes for 2,555 yards and 21 touchdowns against just 11 interceptions to earn a selection to the Pro Bowl. Dilfer is tough and got the job done well, but a better air game would go a long way toward putting the Bucs over the top.

To that end, they went out and got Bert Emanuel, a deep threat who caught 65 passes for 991 yards and nine touchdowns with the Atlanta Falcons last year. First draft choice Jacquez Green, who displayed his talents at the University of Florida, may also be the burner the Bucs seek. Also on hand are Karl Williams, Reidel Anthony and Horace Copeland. Tight ends Dave Moore, Patrick Hape and John Davis are also available.

Warrick Dunn and fullback Mike Alstott were instant complements for one another and both are reliable receivers, as

Hardy Nickerson

NFL Ranking: *Offense 29, Defense 3*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**TAMPA BAY 13**	**SAN FRANCISCO 6**
SEP. 7	**TAMPA BAY 24**	**DETROIT 17**
SEP. 14	**TAMPA BAY 28**	**MINNESOTA 14**
SEP. 21	**TAMPA BAY 31**	**MIAMI 21**
SEP. 28	**TAMPA BAY 19**	**ARIZONA 18**
OCT. 5	GREEN BAY 21	TAMPA BAY 16
OCT. 12	DETROIT 27	TAMPA BAY 9
OCT. 19	Bye	
OCT. 26	MINNESOTA 10	TAMPA BAY 6
NOV. 2	**TAMPA BAY 31**	**INDIANAPOLIS 28**
NOV. 9	**TAMPA BAY 31**	**ATLANTA 10**
NOV. 16	**TAMPA BAY 27**	**NEW ENGLAND 7**
NOV. 23	CHICAGO 13	TAMPA BAY 7
NOV. 30	**TAMPA BAY 20**	**N.Y. GIANTS 8**
DEC. 7	GREEN BAY 17	TAMPA BAY 6
DEC. 14	N.Y. JETS 31	TAMPA BAY 0
DEC. 21	**TAMPA BAY 31**	**CHICAGO 15**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	at Minnesota	1:00	
SEP. 13	at Green Bay	1:00	
SEP. 20	**CHICAGO**	**4:05**	
SEP. 28	at Detroit	8:20	Monday
OCT. 4	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**4:15**	
OCT. 11	Bye		
OCT. 18	**CAROLINA**	**1:00**	
OCT. 25	at New Orleans	1:00	
NOV. 1	**MINNESOTA**	**1:00**	
NOV. 8	**TENNESSEE**	**8:20**	
NOV. 15	at Jacksonville	4:15	
NOV. 22	**DETROIT**	**1:00**	
NOV. 29	at Chicago	1:00	
DEC. 7	**GREEN BAY**	**8:20**	**Monday**
DEC. 13	**PITTSBURGH**	**1:00**	
DEC. 19	at Washington	4:05	Saturday
DEC. 27	at Cincinnati	1:00	

Note: All times are local

Tampa Bay *Buccaneers*

NFC central

well. The offense should be stronger this season, featuring Lorenzo Neal, who was picked up from the New York Jets. His blocking skills will be welcomed.

Center Tony Mayberry went to the Pro Bowl and it looks as if Paul Gruber won't be far behind him. Frank Middleton had flashes of excellence in his first year, while Jerry Wunsch and Jason Odom made their marks late in the season. Jorge Diaz is also available for the line, which lost the services of guard Jim Pyne, who signed with Detroit.

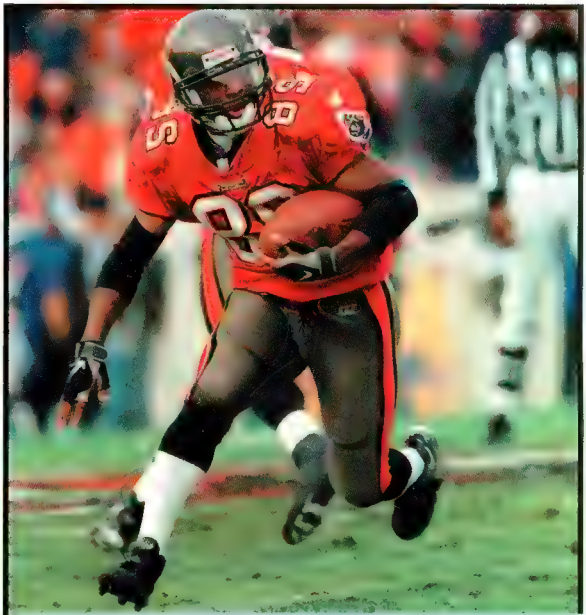
While the offense looks to improve, the Tampa Bay defense has already established a high standard as the defensive line of Warren Sapp, Brad Culpepper, Chidi Ahanotu and Regan Upshaw terrorized quarterbacks. Sapp had 10.5 sacks himself and made it to the Pro Bowl, before signing a new deal that makes him one of the highest-paid defensive linemen in the NFL.

As it is with Dunn and Alstott and the defensive line, middle linebacker Hardy Nickerson and sidekick Derrick Brooks complement one another, so it seems only fitting that both were named to the Pro Bowl. Jeff Gooch fills out the linebacking corps.

Strong safety John Lynch and cornerback Donnie Abraham are looking good these days, but there are some holes to fill in the secondary.

Punter Tommy Barnhardt is back after injury cut short his season, while Michael Husted will handle the placekicking. Dunn's versatility will be appreciated on return teams as well, and he'll be joined by Anthony.

All systems are go for a run at the Super Bowl. A more explosive passing attack would help the cause, but it's important to remember that the Packers, Vikings and Lions occupy the same division and all three made the playoffs last year, along with the Bucs. There are some impressive roadblocks standing in the way.



Warrick Dunn

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *T.B. Buccaneers 10-6*
playoff bound: *yes*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	85 Reidel Anthony	LE	72 Chidi Ahanotu	P	13 Scott Milanovich
	86 Karl Williams		90 Jason Maniecki	K	5 Michael Husted
LT	74 Paul Gruber	NT	77 Brad Culpepper	PR	86 Karl Williams
	69 Pete Pierson		78 Marcus Jones		28 Warrick Dunn
LG	73 Frank Middleton	UT	99 Warren Sapp	KR	85 Reidel Anthony
C	61 Tony Mayberry		97 Tyoka Jackson		86 Karl Williams
	65 Kevin Dogins	RE	91 Regan Upshaw		
RG	64 Jorge Diaz		94 Steve White		
	73 Frank Middleton	SLB	59 Rufus Porter		
RT	70 Jason Odom		50 Jeff Gooch		
	67 Jason Mathews	MLB	56 Hardy Nickerson		
TE	83 Dave Moore		52 Greg Beltisari		
	82 Patrick Hape	WLB	55 Derrick Brooks		
WR	88 Horace Copeland		53 Shelton Quarles		
	84 Robb Thomas	LCB	21 Donnie Abraham		
QB	12 Trent Dilfer		31 Floyd Young		
	4 Steve Walsh	RCB	27 Anthony Parker		
RB	28 Warrick Dunn		45 Tyrone Legette		
FB	40 Mike Alstott	SS	47 John Lynch		
	22 Lorenzo Neal		23 Tony Boule		
		FS	22 Charles Mincy		
			25 Melvin Johnson		

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
2	Jacquez Green	WR	Florida
2	Brian Kelly	CB	USC
3	Jaime Duncan	LB	Vanderbilt
4	Todd Washington	C	Virginia Tech
6	James Cannida	DT	Nevada
6	Shevin Smith	S	Florida State
7	Chance McCarty	DE	TCU

NFC WEST

Atlanta Falcons

THE Atlanta Falcons began last season by losing the first five games The team ended the year by winning seven out of its final 11 games The Falcons believe the momentum established will spill over into the 1998 season

One of the reasons for Atlanta's renewed confidence is the play of quarterback Chris Chandler. Chandler enters his 10th season in the NFL this year, but will be hard-pressed to post better numbers than he put on the stats sheet last year

With Jamal Anderson a presence on the ground, Chandler had a career year, completing 59 1% of his passes for 2,692 yards, 20 touchdowns and seven interceptions His 95 1 quarterback rating was the second-best in the NFL, trailing only Steve Young of the San Francisco 49ers

Anderson was an offensive key for the Falcons and figures to be critical this year, his fifth in the NFL Last season, Anderson led the Falcons in rushing with 1,002 yards on 290 carries and scored seven touchdowns along the ground As a receiver, he was the Falcons' third-leading pass catcher with totals of 29 receptions for 284 yards and three touchdowns

Bert Emanuel led the Falcons in receiving, but left for the free agent money being offered by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Emanuel led the Falcons in receptions (65), yards (991) and touchdowns (nine) Trying to compensate for his loss will be difficult, but Terance Mathis is more than capable of being Atlanta's go-to receiver Draft pick Jammi German is also being counted on

Mathis caught 62 passes last year for 802 yards and six touchdowns Keith Crawford was acquired from the St. Louis Rams as a free agent and tight end Brian Kozlowski is a reliable receiver Rookie tight end O.J Santiago has a year under his belt and should see the football more often

Just in case Chandler falters, the Falcons acquired some veteran leadership in the form of Mark Rypien, a former Super Bowl MVP who came via free agency from the St. Louis Rams

Rypien was one of many free agent offensive players signed by the Falcons, one of the most active teams in the off-season

Offensive linemen Matt Elliott (Carolina Panthers) and Corey Louchey (Buffalo Bills) were acquired as free agents The Falcons lost center Roman Fortin to San Diego and re-signed Scott Adams Calvin Collins, who replaced Fortin as a

Chuck Smith

NFL Ranking: Offense 23, Defense 20

'97 Results

AUG	31	DETROIT 28	ATLANTA 17
SEP	7	CAROLINA 9	ATLANTA 6
SEP.	14	OAKLAND 36	ATLANTA 31
SEP.	21	SAN FRANCISCO 34	ATLANTA 7
SEP	28	DENVER 29	ATLANTA 21
OCT.	5	Bye	
OCT.	**12**	**ATLANTA 23**	**NEW ORLEANS 17**
OCT	19	SAN FRANCISCO 35	ATLANTA 28
OCT.	26	CAROLINA 21	ATLANTA 12
NOV.	**2**	**ATLANTA 34**	**ST. LOUIS 31 (OT)**
NOV.	9	TAMPA BAY 31	ATLANTA 10
NOV.	**16**	**ATLANTA 27**	**ST. LOUIS 21**
NOV.	**23**	**ATLANTA 20**	**NEW ORLEANS 3**
NOV.	**30**	**ATLANTA 24**	**SEATTLE 17**
DEC.	**7**	**ATLANTA 14**	**SAN DIEGO 3**
DEC.	**14**	**ATLANTA 20**	**PHILADELPHIA 17**
DEC.	21	ARIZONA 29	ATLANTA 26

'98 Schedule

SEP.	6	at Carolina	1:00
SEP.	**13**	**PHILADELPHIA**	**1:00**
SEP.	20	Bye	
SEP.	27	at San Francisco	4.15
OCT.	**4**	**CAROLINA**	**1:00**
OCT.	11	at New York Giants	8:20
OCT.	**18**	**NEW ORLEANS**	**1:00**
OCT.	25	at New York Jets	1:00
NOV.	**1**	**ST. LOUIS**	**1:00**
NOV.	8	at New England	1:00
NOV.	**15**	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1:00**
NOV.	**22**	**CHICAGO**	**1:00**
NOV	29	at St Louis	1 00
DEC.	**6**	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**1:00**
DEC.	13	at New Orleans	1:00
DEC.	20	at Detroit	1:00
DEC.	**27**	**MIAMI**	**1:00**

Note All times are local

starter in his rookie season last year, will probably be asked to play guard. The Falcons' offensive line is anchored by veteran Bob Whitfield.

The Falcons are solid in the kicking game. Morten Andersen, who will enter his 17th season this year, is coming off another solid season. The ageless placekicker made 23 of 27 attempts last year and the Falcons rewarded him with a new deal. Punter Dan Stryzinski, who is entering his ninth season, was also inked.

Rookie Byron Hanspard finished fourth in the conference last year in kickoff returns. He returned two for touchdowns, including one that covered 99 yards.

Defensively, the Falcons are strong up front with Chuck Smith and Travis Hall both capable of applying pressure on the quarterback. Smith led the Falcons with 12 sacks, while Hall was second, recording 10.5. Defensive tackle Shane Dronett was re-signed to a two-year contract.

At linebacker, Cornelius Bennett, Henri Crockett and Pro Bowl player Jessie Tuggle return. David Brandon was effective from his starting right spot before breaking his leg in a game against the San Francisco 49ers.

The Falcons used their first round pick to select home-grown linebacker Keith Brooking, who attended Georgia Tech. The Falcons are projecting Brooking to contribute immediately for the team.

In the secondary, the Falcons added the veteran leadership of Eugene Robinson, who helped the Green Bay Packers to the Super Bowl title two years ago. Robinson is entering his 14th season.

The Falcons' secondary was led last year by Ray Buchanan's five interceptions.

Ronnie Bradford intercepted the football four times for Atlanta.

Jamal Anderson

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: Atlanta Falcons 7-9
playoff bound: no

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	81 Terance Mathis	LE	92 Lester Archambeau	P	4 Dan Stryzinski
	89 Todd Kinchen		91 John Burrough	K	5 Morten Andersen
LT	70 Bob Whitfield	LT	98 Travis Hall		3 Scott Bentley
	55 Nate Miller		75 Shane Dronett	PR	89 Todd Kinchen
LG	61 Robbie Tobeck	RT	75 Shane Dronett		81 Terance Mathis
	71 Scott Adams		99 Nathan Davis	KOR	24 Byron Hanspard
C	68 Calvin Collins	RE	90 Chuck Smith		43 Juran Bolden
	79 Dave Widell		91 John Burrough		
RG	69 Gene Williams	LLB	97 Cornelius Bennett		
	71 Scott Adams		52 Craig Sauer		
RT	55 Nate Miller	MLB	58 Jessie Tuggle		
	72 Corey Louchiey		50 Eddie Sutter		
TE	85 Brian Kozlowski	RLB	94 Henri Crockett		
	86 Ed Smith		54 Ruffin Hamilton		
WR	81 Tony Martin	LCB	34 Ray Buchanan		
	87 Bert Emanuel		43 Juran Bolden		
QB	12 Chris Chandler	RCB	23 Ronnie Bradford		
	11 Mark Rypien		20 Michael Booker		
FB	44 Bob Christian	SS	35 William White		
	45 Gary Downs		47 Chris Bayne		
RB	32 Jamal Anderson	FS	25 Devin Bush		
	24 Byron Hanspard		48 Marcus Wimberly		

'98 Draft Picks

Rd	Player	Pos	School
1	Keith Brooking	LB	Georgia Tech
2	Bob Hallen	C	Kent State
3	Jammi German	WR	Miami Fla.
4	Omar Brown	S	North Carolina
4	Tim Dwight	WR	Iowa
6	Elijah Williams	CB	Florida
7	Ephraim Salaam	OT	San Diego State
7	Ken Oxendine	RB	Virginia Tech
7	Henry Slay	DT	West Virginia

NFC WEST

Carolina panthers

WITH only two years experience under their belts, the Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars became the model expansion franchises when both teams advanced to their respective conference championsh ps

And while the Jaguars returned to the post-season last year, the Panthers struggled and ended the year with a losing record at 7-9. For Carolina, it's back to the drawing board in Dom Capers' fourth year with the Panthers

A strong defense and efficient play from their specia teams compensated for a conservative offense that featured the running game

It's the recipe Carolina parlayed into its unlikely NFC final appearance against the Green Bay Packers, a success the Panthers hope to duplicate this year

Kevin Greene, who came to symbolize Carolina's opportunistic defense two years ago, returns after one season with the San Francisco 49ers

Greene, who recorded 10 5 sacks in helping the 49ers become the NFL's No 1 rated defense, is 35 years old, but his charisma and ability to apply pressure on the quarterback will be welcomed back in Carolina The 49ers released Greene for salary cap reasons

The Panthers' defense unit is expected to get better In turn, the Panthers figure to be a more improved team

Greene was one of many shrewd off-season moves initiated by the Panthers and, with a soft schedule, a playoff spot might be realistic

Defensive lineman Sean Gilbert, who sat out the entire 1997 season in Washington because of a contract dispute, signed a long term deal with the Panthers

Gilbert joins a defensive line that features Mike Fox and Les Miller The Panthers used their first-round pick to select defensive lineman Jason Peter

Michael Barrow led the Panthers with 8.5 sacks from his linebacking position, a unit that lost veteran Sam Mills to retirement, but Ernest Dixon was signed as a free agent from New Orleans

In the secondary, the Panthers' biggest move was acquiring free agent Doug Evans from the Green Bay Packers. Evans joins

Lamar Lathon

NFL Ranking: Offense 26, Defense 15

'97 Results

AUG 31	WASHINGTON 24	CAROLINA 10
SEP. 7	**CAROLINA 9**	**ATLANTA 6**
SEP. 14	**CAROLINA 26**	**SAN DIEGO 7**
SEP. 21	KANSAS CITY 35	CAROLINA 14
SEP. 29	SAN FRANCISCO 34	CAROLINA 21
OCT. 5	Bye	
OCT. 12	MINNESOTA 21	CAROLINA 14
OCT. 19	**CAROLINA 13**	**NEW ORLEANS 0**
OCT. 26	**CAROLINA 21**	**ATLANTA 12**
NOV. 2	**CAROLINA 38**	**OAKLAND 14**
NOV. 9	DENVER 34	CAROLINA 0
NOV 16	SAN FRANCISCO 27	CAROLINA 19
NOV. 23	**CAROLINA 16**	**ST. LOUIS 10**
NOV 30	NEW ORLEANS 16	CAROLINA 13
DEC. 8	**CAROLINA 23**	**DALLAS 13**
DEC. 14	GREEN BAY 31	CAROLINA 10
DEC. 20	ST. LOUIS 30	CAROLINA 18

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**ATLANTA**	**1:00**
SEP. 13	at New Orleans	1.00
SEP. 20	Bye	
SEP. 27	**GREEN BAY**	**1:00**
OCT. 4	at Atlanta	1:00
OCT. 11	at Dallas	1:00
OCT. 18	at Tampa Bay	1:00
OCT. 25	**BUFFALO**	**8:20**
NOV. 1	**NEW ORLEANS**	**1:00**
NOV. 8	at San Francisco	1:00
NOV. 15	**MIAMI**	**1:00**
NOV 22	at St. Louis	4:15
NOV 29	at New York Jets	1:00
DEC. 6	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1:00**
DEC. 13	**WASHINGTON**	**1:00**
DEC. 20	**ST. LOUIS**	**1:00**
DEC. 27	at Indianapolis	1:00

Note All times are local

Carolina *Panthers*

NFC west

a secondary that includes two-time Pro Bowler Eric Davis, who led the Panthers with five interceptions. Tyrone Poole gives the Panthers some depth in the defensive backfield, which lost free agent Chad Cota to the New Orleans Saints. Leonard Wheeler was acquired from Minnesota, while Brent Alexander came over from the Arizona Cardinals. Alexander can play both the corner and safety spots.

The Panthers' upgrades in defense and the money spent on free agents won't mean much if the team's offense doesn't produce. A year ago, Kerry Collins struggled at quarterback completing only 52.5% of his passes for 2,124 yards, 11 touchdowns and 21 interceptions.

Tight end Wesley Walls was the Panthers' only consistent receiving target and led the team with 58 catches for 746 yards and six touchdowns.

Rookie running back Fred Lane made a nice impression by rushing 182 times for 809 yards and seven touchdowns.

The Panthers re-signed guard Matthew Campbell and center Frank Garcia, and acquired free agent guard Corbin Lacina from the Buffalo Bills.

The acquisition of William Floyd was critical for the Panthers. Floyd is a versatile back whose main strengths are leadership and blocking. His ability and intangibles might prove to be the missing pieces the Panthers lacked last year.

Carolina's special teams are good with re-signed Michael Bates, the NFL's leading kick returner the last two years. John Kasay is a reliable and strong-legged kicker.

The Panthers hope even years are their lucky ones, and that a repeat of 1996 is in order. Whether a division title is a realistic hope remains to be seen, but the Panthers are likely to claw their way to a Wild Card position in a division that traditionally looks up at the San Francisco 49ers.

Kevin Greene

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *Carolina Panthers 8-8*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 87 M. Muhammad
82 Michael Bates
LT 78 B. Brockermeyer
73 Jamie Wilson
LG 66 Mathew Campbell
52 Matt Elliott
C 65 Frank Garcia
60 Bucky Greeley
RG 75 Greg Skrepenak
68 Corbin Lacina
RT 72 Bernard Dafney
TE 85 Wesley Walls
86 Kris Mangum
WR 84 Rae Carruth
81 Raghib Ismail
QB 12 Kerry Collins
7 Steve Beuerlein
HB 32 Fred Lane
21 Tim Biakabutuka
FB 40 William Floyd
43 Scott Greene

DEFENSE

LDE 93 Mike Fox
98 Don Sasa
NT 94 Sean Gilbert
95 Tim Morabito
RDE 69 Les Miller
99 Ray Seals
LILB 91 Kevin Greene
54 Carlton Bailey
RILB 50 Kinnon Tatum
ROLB 57 Lamar Lathon
94 Tarek Saleh
LCB 25 Eric Davis
41 Toi Cook
RCB 38 Tyrone Poole
31 Rod Smith
SS 46 Brent Alexander
xx Derwin Gray
FS 30 Mike Minter
40 Pat Terrell

SPECIALISTS

K 4 John Kasay
P 13 Ken Walter
PR 38 Tyrone Poole
20 Winslow Oliver
KOR 82 Michael Bates
20 Winslow Oliver

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Jason Peter	DT	Nebraska
3	Chuck Wiley	DE	LSU
3	Mitch Marrow	DE	Pennsylvania
5	Donald Hayes	WR	Wisconsin
6	Jerry Jensen	LB	Washington
7	Damien Richardson	S	Arizona State
7	Viliami Maumau	DT	Colorado
7	Jim Turner	WR	Syracuse

NFC WEST

New Orleans Saints

THE will of Iron Mike Ditka was tested early in his return as an NFL coach

In fact, the New Orleans Saints were so bad that Ditka even questioned his decision to return. However, when the period of critical self-evaluation was over, Ditka discovered the Saints weren't nearly that bad, but not good enough to compete for the playoffs

To their credit, New Orleans, won four of its final seven games, to finish with a 6-10 record. It's hardly cause for celebration along Bourbon Street, but it bodes well for this season

New Orleans was one of the most active teams in the off-season Running back Mario Bates (Arizona Cardinals), linebacker Ernest Dixon (Carolina Panthers), safety Anthony Newman (Oak and Raiders), quarterback Doug Nussmeier (Denver Broncos), tight end Irv Smith (San Francisco 49ers), running back Ricky Whittle (Tennessee Oilers), linebacker Winfred Tubbs (San Francisco) and defensive back Eric Allen (Oakland) are gone, as is retired defensive lineman Darren Mickell

Tubbs might be missed the most. As one of the Saints' better defensive players, he played on a unit that ranked fourth overall in the NFL The Saints will look to Brian Jones and Kevin Mitchell to pick up the slack

On most teams, having a defense that highly-ranked often equates into a playoff spot. But not in New Orleans, where the Saints' offense was truly offensive, ranking dead last (30th overall) in the NFL

New Orleans will again field a highly-competent defensive unit. With Sammy Knight quickly maturing in the secondary, the Saints looked to free agency to fill some holes. Safety Chad Cota, who led the Carolina Panthers in tackles last year, came aboard and Tyronne Drakeford, second in San Francisco with five interceptions, was also penciled in

Wayne Martin's 10.5 sacks from his defensive line position led the Saints last year

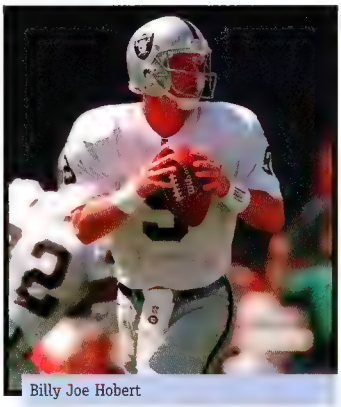
No matter how good the Saints' defense played, it still wasn't good enough to compensate for an ineffective offense

What happens on the other side of the ball will ultimately decide the Saints' fate and whether Ditka has more emotional explosions on the field

Not one Saints quarterback threw more touchdown passes than interceptions

Nussmeier was the least used of the Saints' signal callers, but when he played, he threw three interceptions and zero touchdown passes

Heath Shuler took most of the snaps and most of the pres-



Billy Joe Hobert

NFL Ranking: *Offense 30, Defense 4*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	ST. LOUIS 38	NEW ORLEANS 24
SEP 7	SAN DIEGO 20	NEW ORLEANS 6
SEP. 14	SAN FRANCISCO 33	NEW ORLEANS 7
SEP. 21	**NEW ORLEANS 35**	**DETROIT 17**
SEP. 28	N.Y. GIANTS 14	NEW ORLEANS 9
OCT. 5	**NEW ORLEANS 20**	**CHICAGO 17**
OCT. 12	ATLANTA 23	NEW ORLEANS 17
OCT. 19	CAROLINA 13	NEW ORLEANS 0
OCT. 26	SAN FRANCISCO 23	NEW ORLEANS 0
NOV. 2	Bye	
NOV. 9	**NEW ORLEANS 13**	**OAKLAND 10**
NOV. 16	**NEW ORLEANS 20**	**SEATTLE 17 (OT)**
NOV. 23	ATLANTA 20	NEW ORLEANS 3
NOV. 30	**NEW ORLEANS 16**	**CAROLINA 13**
DEC 7	ST LOUIS 34	NEW ORLEANS 27
DEC. 14	**NEW ORLEANS 27**	**ARIZONA 10**
DEC. 21	KANSAS CITY 25	NEW ORLEANS 13

'98 Schedule

SEP 6	at St. Louis	1:00
SEP. 13	**CAROLINA**	**1:00**
SEP. 20	Bye	
SEP. 27	at Indianapolis	1:00
OCT. 4	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**
OCT. 11	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1:00**
OCT 18	at Atlanta	1 00
OCT. 25	**TAMPA BAY**	**1:00**
NOV 1	at Carolina	1.00
NOV. 8	at Minnesota	1:00
NOV. 15	**ST. LOUIS**	**1:00**
NOV 22	at San Francisco	8 20
NOV. 29	at Miami	1:00
DEC. 6	**DALLAS**	**1:00**
DEC. 13	**ATLANTA**	**1:00**
DEC. 20	at Arizona	4:15
DEC. 27	**BUFFALO**	**1:00**

Note All times are local

New Orleans *Saints*

NFC west

sure. The highly-touted Shuler threw for a team-high 1,288 yards, two touchdowns and 14 interceptions Billy Joe Hobert threw for six touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Danny Wuerffel was good for four touchdowns and eight interceptions At least, Wuerffel had an excuse — he was a rookie.

Ditka must find a way to get better production from the quarterback position

His game of musical quarterbacks didn't work, but in retrospect he had no choice No one seized control or played himself into the starter's role

A team can hide its quarterback deficiency with a strong defense and strong running game. Ditka has the defense and hopes to feature the run.

Ray Zellars led the Saints last year and the Saints took a chance on Lamar Smith, who left the Seattle Seahawks

A confident Smith feels he can rush for 1,000 yards, but will first have to beat out Zellars and Troy Davis as the Saints' starting tailback

At least New Orleans can't get any worse

The Saints used their first-overall pick in the draft on offensive tackle Kyle Turley. The Saints need better play from their offensive line this year and for veteran William Roaf to rebound from a sub-par season.

Through free agency in the off-season, the Saints acquired fullback Aaron Craver, wide receivers Sean Dawkins and Qadry Ismail The Saints also re-signed receiver Andre Hastings, who led New Orleans with five touchdown receptions. Another new face in the receiving corps is veteran Alvin Harper. The Saints spent their second pick of the draft on tight end Cam Cleeland

There's nowhere to go but up, and the Saints can get in line with the rest of the division in trying to catch the 49ers

Ray Zellars

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: *New Orleans Saints 6-10*
playoff bound: *no*

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE
WR	81 Randall Hill
	84 Eric Guliford
LT	77 William Roaf
	72 Trezelle Jenkins
LG	67 Andy McCollum
	70 Isaac Davis
C	62 Jerry Fontenot
	69 Tom Ackerman
RG	76 Kenn Hills
	66 Mike Verstegen
RT	74 Clarence Jones
	71 Ricky Siglar
TE	87 John Farquhar
	85 Nicky Savioe
WR	88 Andre Hastings
	87 Sean Dawkins
QB	12 Billy Joe Hobert
	7 Danny Wuerffel
HB	28 Troy Davis
	34 Aaron Craver
FB	34 Ray Zellars
	25 Lamar Smith

	DEFENSE
LE	92 Darren Mickell
	91 Brady Smith
LT	93 Wayne Martin
	97 La'Roi Glover
RT	99 Pio Sagapolutele
	95 Austin Robbins
RE	94 Joe Johnson
	90 Jared Tomich
LLB	52 Richard Harvey
	59 Keith Mitchell
MLB	55 Kevin Mitchell
	58 Andre Royal
RLB	55 Mark Fields
	50 Ink Aleaga
LCB	25 Alex Molden
	26 M. Washington
RCB	22 Tyrone Drakeford
	37 Je'Rod Cherry
SS	33 Rob Kelly
	23 Chris Hewitt
FS	29 Sammy Knight
	37 Chad Cota

	SPECIALISTS
P	3 Mark Royals
K	10 Doug Brien
PR	84 Eric Guilford
	88 Andre Hastings
KOR	84 Eric Guilford
	28 Troy Davis

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Kyle Turley	OL	San Diego State
2	Cameron Cleeland	TE	Washington
4	Fred Weary	CB	Florida
4	Julian Pittman	DE	Florida State
5	Wilmont Perry	RB	Livingstone (N.C.)
6	Chris Bordano	LB	SMU
7	Andy McCullough	WR	Tennessee
7	Ron Warner	LB	Kansas

NFC WEST

St. Louis rams

FOLLOWING last year's 5-11 season with the St. Louis Rams, coach Dick Vermeil could have been excused if he sought the less-demanding job of television analysis.

Vermeil began to establish a new order of discipline midway through his first year in St. Louis, when he released running back Lawrence Phillips, a former first-round draft pick. Jerald Moore may become the feature back this year, while the Rams need fullback Craig (Ironhead) Heyward to bounce back from a sub-par year. Second draft pick Robert Holcombe may get a shot at running back, too.

In the off-season, Vermeil released middle linebacker Robert Jones, the Rams' leading tackler, defensive lineman Leslie O'Neal, who led St. Louis in sacks, and defensive lineman Jimmie Jones.

In the case of Robert Jones, who was part of three Super Bowl teams in Dallas, the Rams felt they would be better served with Eric Hill, a free agent acquisition from the Arizona Cardinals. A first round draft pick in 1989, Hill, 31, was a perennial starter in the middle for the Cardinals.

Not only did the Rams lose O'Neal and Jimmie Jones, but also suffered a loss when free agent defensive tackle Bil. Johnson left the Rams for the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Rams hope veteran Ray Agnew can fill in for Johnson. Agnew, 30, is an eight-year veteran who played last year with the New York Giants.

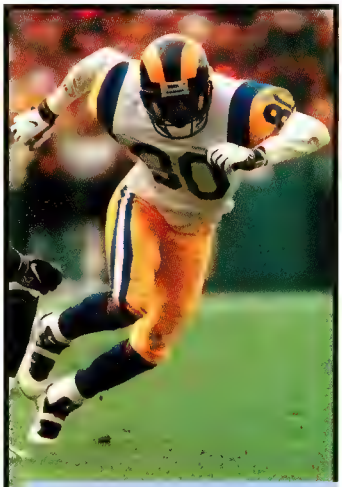
St. Louis also signed tackle Joe Phillips from the Kansas City Chiefs, and used its first round pick to take defensive tackle Grant Wistrom.

The Rams' strength on defense is their secondary. Ryan McNeil led the NFL with nine interceptions, while Keith Lyle had eight and Todd Lyght added four.

It's on offense that the Rams need to be more consistent. As is the case with any team, the quarterback position is the most pivotal, and Rams' starter Tony Banks has to rebound from a rather ordinary season.

The strong-armed Banks completed only 51.7% of his passes for 3,254 yards and 14 touchdowns, but he also threw 13 interceptions.

Banks' backup last year, Mark Rypien, left in free agency for



Isaac Bruce

NFL Ranking: *Offense 21, Defense 17*

'97 Results

AUG. 31	**ST. LOUIS 38**	**NEW ORLEANS 24**
SEP. 7	SAN FRANCISCO 15	ST. LOUIS 12
SEP. 14	DENVER 35	ST. LOUIS 14
SEP. 21	**ST. LOUIS 13**	**N.Y. GIANTS 3**
SEP. 28	OAKLAND 35	ST. LOUIS 17
OCT. 5	Bye	
OCT. 12	SAN FRANCISCO 30	ST. LOUIS 10
OCT. 19	SEATTLE 17	ST. LOUIS 9
OCT. 26	KANSAS CITY 28	ST. LOUIS 20
NOV. 2	ATLANTA 34	ST. LOUIS 31 (OT)
NOV. 9	GREEN BAY 17	ST. LOUIS 7
NOV. 16	ATLANTA 27	ST. LOUIS 21
NOV. 23	CAROLINA 16	ST. LOUIS 10
NOV. 30	**ST. LOUIS 23**	**WASHINGTON 20**
DEC. 7	**ST. LOUIS 34**	**NEW ORLEANS 27**
DEC. 14	CHICAGO 13	ST. LOUIS 10
DEC. 20	**ST. LOUIS 30**	**CAROLINA 18**

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**NEW ORLEANS**	**1:00**	
SEP. 13	**MINNESOTA**	**1:00**	
SEP. 20	at Buffalo	1:00	
SEP. 27	**ARIZONA**	**1:00**	
OCT. 4	Bye		
OCT. 11	**NEW YORK JETS**	**4:15**	
OCT. 18	at Miami	4:15	
OCT. 25	**SAN FRANCISCO**	**1:00**	
NOV. 1	at Atlanta	1:00	
NOV. 8	at Chicago	1:00	
NOV. 15	at New Orleans	1:00	
NOV. 22	**CAROLINA**	**4:05**	
NOV. 29	**ATLANTA**	**1:00**	
DEC. 3	at Philadelphia	8:20	Thursday
DEC. 13	**NEW ENGLAND**	**1:00**	
DEC. 20	at Carolina	1:00	
DEC. 27	at San Francisco	4:05	

Note: All times are local

the Atlanta Falcons. In his place, the Rams acquired the 35 year-old veteran Steve Bono in a trade with the Green Bay Packers. Bono, while attempting only 10 passes with the Packers last year has some impressive credentials will vie for the backup role with Will Furrer

St Louis upgraded its receiving unit when the Rams acquired Ricky Proehl from the Chicago Bears as a free agent

With the Bears, Proehl led Chicago in every receiving category—receptions (58), yards (753) and touchdowns (7)

Even though Banks passed for more than 3,000 yards, the Rams did not feature a 1,000-yard receiver. Amp Lee led the Rams with 61 catches for 825 yards and he's a running back

On paper, the Rams will have an explosive passing game, provided Isaac Bruce and Eddie Kennison produce this year. Bruce was being hailed as the next Jerry Rice two years ago, but his numbers decreased last year. For the season, Bruce caught 56 passes for 815 yards and five touchdowns. Both he and Kennison also suffered injuries in 1997 Tight end Ernie Conwell can also be dangerous

The Rams' offensive line got a boost when the club signed free agent guard John Flannery from the Dallas Cowboys The offensive line will again feature Orlando Pace, who last year became the first offensive lineman in 30 years to be taken first overall in the NFL draft

At 6-foot-7, 330 pounds, Pace has the physical attributes to excel at the pro level, but his transition from college to the NFL was slow last year He arrived in training camp late last year and started nine games in his rookie season

The Rams' punting game will be better with veteran Rick Tuten, formerly of the Seattle Seahawks, handling the duties

The Rams are ready to test Vermeil, once again, in 1998

Tony Banks

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: St. Louis Rams 6-10
playoff bound: no

Depth Chart

OFFENSE

WR 88 Eddie Kennison
87 Ricky Proehl
LT 76 Orlando Pace
70 Wayne Gandy
LG 66 John Gerak
50 Ryan Tucker
C 60 M. Gruttadauria
52 Vernice Smith
RG 72 Zach Wiegert
63 John Flannery
RT 70 Wayne Gandy
73 Fred Miller
TE 84 Ernie Conwell
86 Aaron Laing
WR 80 Isaac Bruce
87 J.T. Thomas
QB 12 Tony Banks
11 Mark Rypien
RB 44 Jerald Moore
31 Amp Lee
FB 34 Craig Heyward
33 Derrick Harris

DEFENSE

RE 93 Ray Agnew
96 Jay Williams
NT 75 D'Marco Farr
90 Jeff Zgonina
UT 92 Bryan Robinson
LE 93 Kevin Carter
96 Jay Williams
RLB 56 Eric Hill
58 Roman Phifer
MLB 55 Robert Jones
57 Britt Hager
LLB 52 Mike Jones
57 Britt Hager
LCB 41 Todd Lyght
20 Taje Allen
RCB 47 Ryan McNeil
25 Willie Clark
SS 32 Toby Wright
22 Billy Jenkins Jr
FS 35 Keith Lyle
37 Mike Scurlock

SPECIALISTS

P 2 Mike Horan
14 Jeff Wilkins
K 14 Jeff Wilkins
PR 88 Eddie Kennison
82 Malcolm Floyd
KOR 28 David Thompson
34 Craig Heyward

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	Grant Wistrom	DE	Nebraska
2	Robert Holcombe	RB	Illinois
3	Leonard Little	LB	Tennessee
3	Az-Zahir Hakim	WR	San Diego State
3	Roland Williams	TE	Syracuse
4	Raymond Priester	RB	Clemson
6	Glenn Rountree	OG	Clemson
7	Jason Chorak	DE	Washington

NFC WEST

San Francisco 49ers

IN Steve Mariucci's first game of his first season coaching the storied San Francisco 49ers, former Super Bowl MVP quarterback Steve Young suffered a concussion and future hall of fame receiver Jerry Rice injured his knee on a reverse as the 49ers lost 13-6 to Tampa Bay

Most teams would be waving the white flag, but San Francisco adjusted and went on a roll that would see the 49ers win their next 11 games

Mariucci became well-versed in the art of improvisation and last year's early-season trauma puts San Francisco in good stead this year

The 49ers were the only team in their division to post a winning record last year, going 13-3 in a pretty favorable schedule Even though San Francisco played host to the NFC title game, they were no match for the Green Bay Packers, who beat San Francisco for the third straight time in the post-season. The task this year is for the 49ers to adjust to the off-season changes and attack a tough schedule

Young was the NFL's highest-rated passer last year, completing 67.7% of his attempts for 3,029 yards, 19 touchdowns, with six interceptions His rating of 104 7 was head-and-shoulders above any quarterback in the league

Rookie Jim Druckenmiller is back and the 49ers acquired Ty Detmer from the Philadelphia Eagles

Young spread the ball a lot more in the absence of Rice, who made a miraculous recovery from knee surgery Sadly, he re-injured it, following a touchdown reception against Denver and didn't return. Youngsters J J. Stokes and Terrell Owens were featured more, but neither had the aura of Rice Owens led the 49ers with 60 receptions for 936 yards and eight touchdowns. Along the ground, Garrison Hearst became the team's first 1,000-yard running back since 1992

On the offensive line, long-time 49er Kirk Scrafford's chronic neck pain forced him into early retirement Jamie Brown, acquired in a trade with the Denver Broncos, will fill in, versatile lineman Derrick Deese, who has played multiple positions in his six years as a 49er, will be asked to play right tackle

The 49ers lost offensive lineman Rod Milstead to Washington as a free agent, but Kevin Gogan is back after a Pro Bowl nomination, as is guard Ray Brown and center Chris Dalman

Garrison Hearst

NFL Ranking: Offense 12, Defense 1

'97 Results

AUG. 31	TAMPA BAY 13	SAN FRANCISCO 6
SEP. 7	**SAN FRANCISCO 15**	**ST. LOUIS 12**
SEP. 14	**SAN FRANCISCO 33**	**NEW ORLEANS 7**
SEP. 21	**SAN FRANCISCO 34**	**ATLANTA 7**
SEP. 29	**SAN FRANCISCO 34**	**CAROLINA 21**
OCT. 5	Bye	
OCT. 12	**SAN FRANCISCO 30**	**ST. LOUIS 10**
OCT. 19	**SAN FRANCISCO 35**	**ATLANTA 28**
OCT. 26	**SAN FRANCISCO 23**	**NEW ORLEANS 0**
NOV. 2	**SAN FRANCISCO 17**	**DALLAS 10**
NOV. 10	**SAN FRANCISCO 24**	**PHILADELPHIA 12**
NOV. 16	**SAN FRANCISCO 27**	**CAROLINA 19**
NOV. 23	**SAN FRANCISCO 17**	**SAN DIEGO 10**
NOV. 30	KANSAS CITY 44	SAN FRANCISCO 9
DEC. 7	**SAN FRANCISCO 28**	**MINNESOTA 17**
DEC. 15	**SAN FRANCISCO 34**	**DENVER 17**
DEC. 21	SEATTLE 38	SAN FRANCISCO 9

'98 Schedule

SEP. 6	**NEW YORK JETS**	**4:15**	
SEP 14	at Washington	8 20	Monday
SEP. 20	Bye		
SEP. 27	**ATLANTA**	**4:15**	
OCT. 4	at Buffalo	1:00	
OCT. 11	at New Orleans	1:00	
OCT. 18	**INDIANAPOLIS**	**4:05**	
OCT. 25	at St. Louis	1:00	
NOV. 1	at Green Bay	4:15	
NOV. 8	**CAROLINA**	**4:05**	
NOV. 15	at Atlanta	1:00	
NOV. 22	**NEW ORLEANS**	**8:20**	
NOV. 30	**NEW YORK GIANTS**	**8:20**	**Monday**
DEC. 6	at Carolina	1:00	
DEC. 14	**DETROIT**	**8:20**	**Monday**
DEC. 20	at New England	1:00	
DEC. 27	**ST. LOUIS**	**4:05**	

Note All times are local

San Francisco 49ers

NFC west

Bruising fullback William Floyd — who can run, catch and block — was lost when he signed a free-agent contract with the division rival Carolina Panthers

Defensively, the 49ers lost at least one player to free agency from each of the defensive line, linebackers and secondary Dana Stubblefield, who led the 49ers with 15 quarterback sacks, signed with the Washington Redskins

The 49ers will still field a very athletic, young and aggressive line Veteran Chris Doleman, who had 12 sacks last year, was re-signed and joins holdovers Roy Barker, Bryant Young and Junior Bryant Gabe Wilkins left the Packers as a free agent to sign with San Francisco

Ken Norton Jr. returns to anchor the 49ers' linebacking unit, which added former New Orleans Saint Winfred Tubbs to its mix. Anthony Peterson acquired in a trade with the Chicago Bears, will likely back up Norton while remaining active on special teams. Outside man Lee Woodall returns after getting Pro Bowl consideration last year

Two Kevins—Greene and Mitchell—were lost from the linebacking corps. The flamboyant Greene returned to the Carolina Panthers, while Mitchell signed with the New Orleans Saints

In the defensive backfield, veteran Rod Woodson returned to the AFC's Central Division, where he signed with the Baltimore Ravens Tyronne Drakeford signed as a free agent with the New Orleans Saints

A key move by the 49ers was the acquisition of free-agent defensive back Antonio Langham. The 49ers used their first-round pick to select defensive back R W McQuarters from Oklahoma St

The glory years are behind them, but the Niners should have no problem securing the top spot

Jerry Rice

NFL GameDay™ '99 predictions: San Francisco 49ers 12-4
playoff bound: yes

Depth Chart

	OFFENSE		DEFENSE		SPECIALISTS
WR	83 J.J. Stokes	LE	98 Gabe Wilkins	K	3 Tommy Thompson
	88 Mark Harris		92 Roy Barker	P	3 Tommy Thompson
LT	63 Derrick Deese	LT	97 Bryant Young		41 Terry Kirby
	75 Frank Pollack		96 Shane Bonham	PR	32 Chuck Levy
LG	65 Ray Brown	RT	90 Junior Bryant		89 Iheanyi Uwaezuoke
	60 Joe Rudolph		71 Albert Reese	KR	32 Chuck Levy
C	67 Chris Dalman	RE	56 Chris Doleman		89 Iheanyi Uwaezuoke
	61 Jesse Sapolu		96 Daryl Price		
RG	66 Kevin Gogan	LLB	54 Lee Woodall		
	70 Jamie Brown		53 James Williams		
RT	76 Kirk Scrafford	MLB	54 Winfred Tubbs		
	75 Frank Pollack		50 Gary Plummer		
TE	82 Irv Smith	RLB	51 Ken Norton Jr.		
	84 Brent Jones		52 Jim Schwantz		
WR	81 Terrell Owens	LCB	38 Antonio Langham		
	89 Iheanyi Uwaezuoke	RCB	23 Marquez Pope		
QB	8 Steve Young		38 Darnell Walker		
	14 Ty Detmer	SS	46 Tim McDonald		
HB	41 Terry Kirby		25 Brett Maxie		
	22 Garrison Hearst	FS	36 Merton Hanks		
FB	44 Mark Edwards		31 Zack Bronson		
	32 Chuck Levy				

'98 Draft Picks

RD	Player	Pos	School
1	R.W. McQuarters	CB	Oklahoma State
2	Jeremy Newberry	C	California
3	Chris Ruhman	OT	Texas A&M
4	Lance Schulters	S	Hofstra
5	Phil Ostrowski	OG	Penn State
6	Fred Beasley	RB	Auburn
7	Ryan Thelwell	WR	Minnesota

NFL GAMEDAY 99

LOCKER ROOM CHALLENGE

THE "Locker Room Challenge" actually starts at the beginning of the NFL season, when an *NFL GameDay™ '99* tournament played out in each NFL team locker room. The finals of the Locker Room Challenge consist of a collection of each team's NFL GameDay videogame champion.

Last year at the PlayStation® NFL Players Party, "Locker Room Challenge" participants squared off in San Diego, including 49er Garrison Hearst, Oiler Eddie George, Raven Michael Jackson, Buccaneer Hardy Nickerson and Panther Toi Cook.

The championship saw running back, Edgar Bennett of the Green Bay Packers, defeat linebacker Boo Whitfield of the Atlanta Falcons. The 989 Sports NFL Players Party will once again host the championship of this season-long battle.

"NFL GameDay '99 - Gridiron tested by some of today's top NFL players."

Edgar Bennett battles Boo Whitfield on *NFL GameDay™ '98*

Pros get put to the videogame test

NFL GameDay™ '98 "Locker Room Challenge" champion Edgar Bennett

Your Computer

has new found importance

IN an announcement that instantly improves the value of your computer—making it more than just a chatroom interface—989 Sports will introduce *NFL GameDay™ '99* for the PC this September. PC gamers, who in the past could only fantasize about having realistic football action on their personal computer, now will be able to enjoy the PlayStation's top-selling football title, *NFL GameDay™ '99*, in all its glory.

As on the PlayStation, *NFL GameDay™ '99* mixes eye-popping, 3-D graphics with superior gameplay and realism, taking advantage of Motion Capture technology to simulate the moves of actual NFL stars. All the great features of the PlayStation version are here: revolutionary, perfectly recreated stadium models; actual plays designed by NFL players; and, the use of all 30 NFL teams complete with updated rosters.

The PC version of *NFL GameDay™ '99* will allow gamers to connect to 989 Sports on-line match-up service, offered free of charge. There, gamers can challenge other enthusiasts from around the world to the intense competition provided only by *NFL GameDay™ '99*.

WINDOWS™ 95

PC CD ROM

NFL GameDay™ '99 – Comes to the PC

989 Sports

NFL GAMEDAY 99

game BEFORE THE game

The "Game Before The Game™" has been successfull in predicting the last three Super Bowl winners

WHAT started out as two guys—although the guys were Pittsburgh Steelers' safety Carnell Lake and Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Charles Haley—playing the initial release of NFL GameDay in a bar three Super Bowls ago, has become one of the most followed events of the week that precedes the big game. At this year's 989 Sports NFL Players Party, fans will fill the bleachers and watch as the ultra-realistic *NFL GameDay™ '99* videogame battle is played out by two key NFL Super Bowl contenders.

Last year, Terrell Davis of the Denver Broncos handled Green Bay Packers wide receiver Robert Brooks in a game that was a correct prophesy of the Super Bowl. The year before, Packers running back Edgar Bennett beat New England Patriots wide receiver Terry Glenn in another correct outcome. Fans should be sure to watch this year's Game Before the Game™ at the 989 Sports NFL Players Party in order to find out who will be the winner on Super Bowl Sunday.

Terrell Davis schools Robert Brooks at the third annual "Game Before The Game™"

Predicting the Super Bowl champions

989 SPORTS TO BE TITLE SPONSOR OF 1999 NFL PLAYERS PARTY

989 Sports, the makers of the top-selling game franchise "NFL GameDay," has taken a backseat to a newly held one in celebration of the NFL Players Party, the most anticipated event leading up to Super Bowl XXXIII. The 989 Sports NFL Players Party, which will take place in South Beach Miami, the site of this year's Super Bowl, promises an unlimited amount of excitement for football fans, highlighted by the attendance of NFL players, who are free to socialize with the crowd and play NFL GameDay™ '99.

At the event Party, 989 Sports will assemble their eight best popular teams, both of which will feature NFL players, one of it is an NFL GameDay™ '99.

The 989 Annual Game Before the Game™, which allows an exclusive preview of the Super Bowl, is a match up of two Superior planned teams, each containing eight Pro teams. The second event, The Locker Room Challenge™, progresses throughout the NFL season and will culminate in Miami, where a player from each the team will vying for a [illegible] tournament [illegible]

Top View of the PlayStation arena at the Second Annual "Game Before The Game™"

Patriots, Terry Glenn duels with Packs' Edgar Bennett at the second annual "Game Before The Game™"

989 Sports

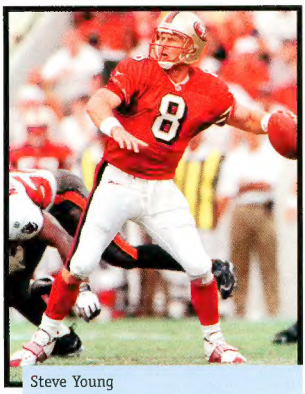
Passing

Name, Team	Att	Comp	Comp %	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	TD %	Long	Int	Int %	Rating
S.Young, S.F.	356	241	67.7	3029	8.51	19	5.3	82	6	1.7	104.7
Chandler, Atl.	342	202	59.1	2692	7.87	20	5.8	56	7	2.0	95.1
Favre, G.B.	513	304	59.3	3867	7.54	35	6.8	74	16	3.1	92.6
Brunell, Jax	435	264	60.7	3281	7.54	18	4.1	75	7	1.6	91.2
George, Oak.	521	290	55.7	3917	7.52	29	5.6	76	9	1.7	91.2
Bledsoe, N.E.	522	314	60.2	3706	7.10	28	5.4	76	15	2.9	87.7
Elway, Den.	502	280	55.8	3635	7.24	27	5.4	78	11	2.2	87.5
Harbaugh, Ind.	309	189	61.2	2060	6.67	10	3.2	58	4	1.3	86.2
Johnson, Min.	452	275	60.8	3036	6.72	20	4.4	56	12	2.7	84.5
Hoying, Phi.	225	128	56.9	1573	6.99	11	4.9	72t	6	2.7	83.8
Moon, Sea.	528	313	59.3	3678	6.97	25	4.7	60t	16	3.0	83.7
Dilfer, T.B.	386	217	56.2	2555	6.62	21	5.4	59t	11	2.8	82.8

Total Yards

Name	Total	Rush	Rec
B. Sanders, DET	2358	2053	305
T. Davis, DEN	2037	1750	287
D. Levens, GB	1805	1435	370
J. Bettis, PIT	1775	1665	110
N. Kaufman, OAK	1697	1294	403
R. Moore, ARI	1584	0	1584
R. Watters, PHI	1550	1110	440
M. Faulk, IND	1525	1054	471
R. Smith, MIN	1463	1266	197
C. Martin, NE	1456	1160	296
E. George, TEN	1443	1399	44
W. Dunn, TB	1440	978	462

The League's


Steve Young

Barry Sanders

Karim Abdul-Jabbar

TDs

Name	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Points
K. Abdul-Jabbar, MIA	16	15	1	0	96
T. Davis, DEN	15	15	0	0	96
B. Sanders, DET	14	11	3	0	84
C. Carter, MIN	13	0	13	0	84
J. Galloway, SEA	12	0	12	0	72
J. Jett, OAK	12	0	12	0	72
R. Smith, DEN	12	0	12	0	72
A. Freeman, GB	12	0	12	0	72
D. Levens, GB	12	7	5	0	74
M. Allen, KC	11	11	0	0	66
K. Stewart, PIT	11	11	0	0	66
C. Dillon, CIN	10	10	0	0	60

Receptions

Name	Rec	Yds	Yds/Rec	Long	TD
T. Brown, OAK	104	1408	13.5	59t	5
H. Moore, DET	104	1293	12.4	79	8
R. Moore, ARI	97	1584	16.3	47t	8
C. Carter, MIN	89	1069	12.0	43	13
I. Fryar, PHI	86	1316	15.3	72t	6
K. McCardell, JAC	85	1164	13.7	60	5
J. Smith, JAC	82	1324	16.1	75	4
A. Freeman, GB	81	1243	15.3	58t	12
J. Morton, DET	80	1057	13.2	73t	6
Y. Thigpen, PIT	79	1398	17.7	69t	7
O. McDuffie, MIA	76	943	12.4	55	1
M. Irvin, DAL	75	1180	15.7	55	9

Receiving Yards

Name	Yds	Rec	Yds/Rec	Long	TD
R. Moore, ARI	1584	97	16.3	47t	8
T. Brown, OAK	1408	104	13.5	59t	5
Y. Thigpen, PIT	1398	79	17.7	69t	7
J. Smith, JAC	1324	82	16.1	75	4
I. Fryar, PHI	1316	86	15.3	72t	6
H. Moore, DET	1293	104	12.4	79	8
A. Freeman, GB	1243	81	15.3	58t	12
R. Smith, DEN	1180	70	16.9	78	12
M. Irvin, DAL	1180	75	15.7	55	9
K. McCardell, JAC	1164	85	13.7	60	5
J. Reed, MIN	1138	68	16.7	56	6
S. Sharpe, DEN	1107	72	15.4	68t	3

Punters

Name	No	Yds	Lg	Avg	TB	Blk	Ret	Ret Yds	In 20	Net Avg
Royals, N.O.	88	4038	66	45.9	13	0	50	706	21	34.9
Tupa, N.E.	78	3569	73	45.8	14	1	38	437	24	36.1
Gardocki, Ind.	67	3034	72	45.3	6	0	43	491	18	36.2
M.Turk, Was.	84	3788	62	45.1	11	1	33	237	32	39.2
Araguz, Oak.	93	4189	63	45.0	6	0	52	431	28	39.1
Hentrich, G.B.	75	3378	65	45.0	21	0	32	255	26	36.0
Barker, Jax	66	2964	64	44.9	8	0	29	241	27	38.8
Bennett, S.D.	89	3972	66	44.6	8	1	39	416	26	37.7
Feagles, Ariz	91	4028	62	44.3	10	1	40	441	24	36.8
Rouen, Den.	60	2598	57	43.3	4	0	26	235	22	38.1
Kidd, Mia.	52	2247	58	43.2	4	0	35	243	13	37.0
Hansen, NY-J	71	3068	58	43.2	5	1	45	429	20	35.3

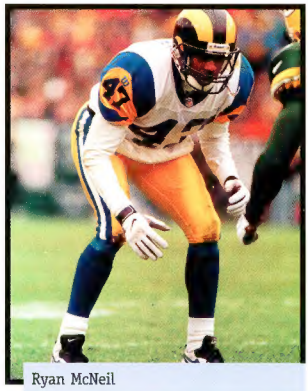
Kickers

Name	PAT Made	Att	PAT%	FG Made	Att	FG%	Long	Points
M. Hollis, JAC	41	41	100.0	31	36	86.1	52	134
R. Cunningham, DAL	24	24	100.0	34	37	91.9	53	126
G. Anderson, SF	38	38	100.0	29	36	80.6	51	125
J. Elam, DEN	46	46	100.0	26	36	72.2	53	124
J. Hall, NYJ	36	36	100.0	28	41	68.3	55	120
R. Longwell, GB	48	48	100.0	24	30	80.0	50	120
C. Blanchard, IND	21	21	100.0	32	41	78.1	50	117
O. Mare, MIA	33	33	100.0	28	36	77.8	50	117
J. Hanson, DET	39	40	97.5	26	29	89.7	55	117
A. Vinatieri, NE	40	40	100.0	25	29	86.2	52	115
A. Del Greco, TEN	32	32	100.0	27	35	77.1	52	113
P. Stoyanovich, KC	35	36	97.2	26	27	96.3	54	113

Brightest Stars of '97

John Randle

Mike Hollis


Ryan McNeil

Rushing

Name	Att	Yds	Yds/Att	Long	TD
B. Sanders, DET	335	2053	6.1	82t	11
T. Davis, DEN	369	1750	4.7	50t	15
J. Bettis, PIT	375	1665	4.4	34	7
D. Levens, GB	329	1435	4.4	52t	7
E. George, TEN	357	1399	3.9	30	6
N. Kaufman, OAK	272	1294	4.8	83t	6
R. Smith, MIN	232	1266	5.5	78t	6
C. Martin, NE	274	1160	4.2	70t	4
C. Dillon, CIN	233	1129	4.8	71t	10
R. Watters, PHI	285	1110	3.9	28	7
A. Murrell, NYJ	300	1086	3.6	43t	7
E. Smith, DAL	261	1074	4.1	44	4

Sacks

Name	Sacks
J. Randle, MIN	15.5
D. Stubblefield, SF	15.0
B. Smith, BUF	14.0
M. Strahan, NYG	14.0
R. Porcher, DET	12.5
M. Sinclair, SEA	12.0
C. Doleman, SF	12.0
C. Smith, ATL	12.0
P. Boulware, BAL	11.5
R. White, GB	11.0
D. Footman, IND	10.5
D. Williams, KC	10.5

Interceptions

Name	Int	Yds	Long	TD
R. McNeil, STL	9	127	75t	1
M. McMillian, KC	8	274	87t	3
D. Williams, SEA	8	172	44t	1
K. Lyle, STL	8	102	39	0
W. Clay, NE	6	109	53t	1
O. Smith, NYJ	6	158	51t	3
M. Hanks, SF	6	103	55t	1
J. Sehorn, NYG	6	74	41	1
A. Williams, ARI	6	95	42t	2
D. Figures, JAC	5	48	32	0
D. Lewis, TEN	5	115	47t	1
M. Robertson, TEN	5	127	48	0

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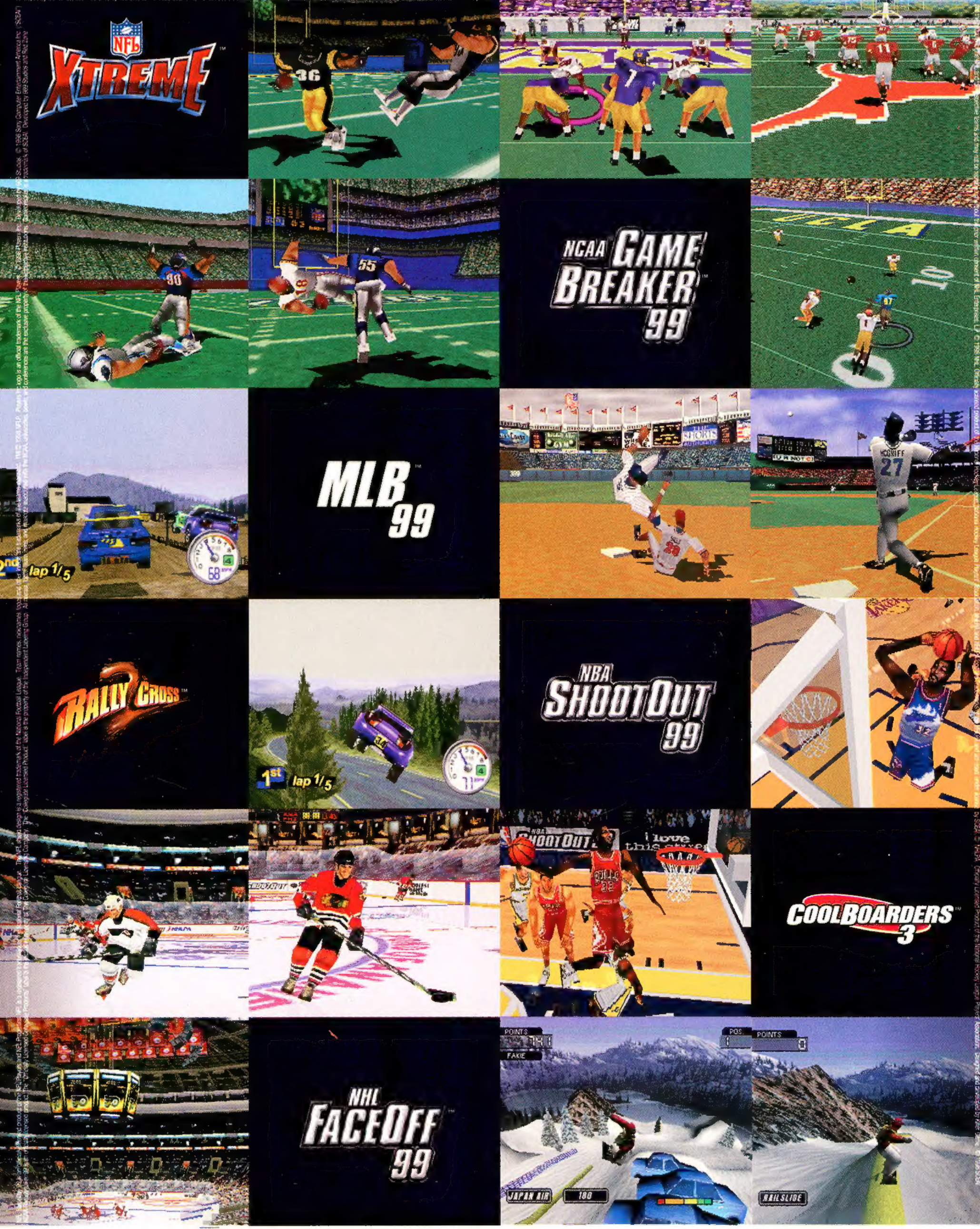

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